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THE CONTINENTS AND THEIR PEOPLE  
ASIA





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TORONTO

THE CONTINENTS AND THEIR PEOPLE

# ASIA

## A SUPPLEMENTARY GEOGRAPHY

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## PREFACE

ASIA, the largest of the continents, is a part of what we call the "Old World." While the people of Europe were yet barbarians, there were nations in Asia that had developed a high degree of civilization. To-day the civilization of Asia is far behind that of the continent from which the great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers of most of us came — Europe. Nations that were once prominent have passed away, and the ruins of great cities lie buried beneath drifting sands.

Asia is a continent of extremes. It has large countries, lofty mountains, extensive plateaus, vast plains, immense deserts, dense forests, and mighty rivers. It has areas of eternal snow, and stretches where perpetual summer reigns. Portions of the continent are very densely populated, and other portions are practically uninhabited.

Both in a geographical and in an historical sense, Asia and Europe are closely united. The study of the geography of Asia should, therefore, follow that of Europe. In the case of no other continent can we see more clearly the relations between geography and history. With the study of North America and Eu-

rope as a background, the pupils can work out somewhat fully many of these relationships.

The pupils' knowledge of both history and geography will be greatly increased by tracing the early routes of discovery and trade between Europe and Asia. Brief reference to ancient Nineveh and Babylon; to the pilgrimages of the Crusaders to the Holy Land; to the Trojan wars; to the search for far Cathay; to the journeys of Marco Polo — these and other topics will add interest and profit to the study of the geography of Asia.

For the use of photographs the authors are under great obligation to Mr. George Howell, Mr. William G. Hoag, Mr. C. H. Hamilton, Professor S. Webster French, and Mr. Walter L. Richardson, all of Pasadena, and Mr. E. A. Magic of Chicago.

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA.

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# ASIA

## CHAPTER I

### THE CONTINENT OF ASIA

NEARLY all of the people of Europe belong to the white or *Caucasian* race. As North America was colonized by people from Europe, most of the inhabitants of our continent belong to the white race. Although there are many representatives of the Caucasian race in Asia, there are many millions of people who belong to the yellow or *Mongolian* race. In race, history, language, and customs we differ in many ways from most of the inhabitants of Asia.

Although Asia is generally studied as a separate continent, Europe and Asia really constitute one great land mass to which the name Eurasia is given. In a general way the boundary between Europe and Asia follows the Ural Mountains, the Ural River, the Caspian Sea, the Caucasus Mountains, and the Black Sea. By means of a map, trace the boundary more definitely. Bering Strait, only about fifty miles wide, separates Asia from North America. Asia and Africa,

joined naturally by the Isthmus of Suez, are now slightly separated by the Suez Canal.

Asia is the largest of the continents. In fact, its area is nearly one third that of the land surface of the globe. It is about four and one half times as large as Europe. From east to west Asia extends one third of the distance around the world on the sixtieth parallel of north latitude. On the north the coast line reaches far beyond the Arctic Circle, while the most southern point of the continent nearly touches the equator. Because Asia is situated in three zones, it has torrid, temperate, and frigid climates in its different parts.

The coast line of the continent, like that of Europe, is very extensive. Stretching southward from Asia are the largest three peninsulas in the world. Point to these and name them. There are also large projections and indentations on the eastern coast. Although the extent of coast line on the north is very great, the bays and rivers are blocked by ice for so many months every year that the harbors are of little value. Because of this, Asia has no large cities on the Arctic coast.

Most of the northern part of Asia is a vast plain sloping toward the north. This is Asiatic Russia, or *Siberia*. The extreme northern part of this plain is a dreary, frozen waste called the *tundra*. Neither







farms nor forests are found here. During the short summers, mosses and other low forms of vegetation spring up here, and birds lay their eggs, and raise their young.

One might travel for hundreds of miles in this region and see no human beings but the Eskimos. In the long, dark winter these hardy people live in houses made of blocks of snow and ice, to which they give the name of *igloo*. During this season of the year they travel by means of sledges drawn by dogs. In the summer they journey from place to place in skin boats called *kayaks* and *umiaks*.

As we travel southward from the desolate tundra, trees gradually appear. At first they are few and small, because the extreme cold is not favorable to their growth. Finally we enter a vast forest that stretches practically across the continent from east to west. Owing to the sparse population, and lack of roads, much of this great forest is to-day untouched.

South of the forest belt is a fertile farming country. Wheat, rye, oats, barley, potatoes, and flax are important crops in the cooler parts, while corn and cotton are grown in the warmer regions. Much of the farming is carried on in a primitive way.

The steppe country lies south of the agricultural belt. This section does not receive very much rain,

and is therefore better adapted to grazing than to agriculture. To what part of the United States does it correspond?

In addition to this vast northward sloping plain, Asia has extensive plains in India and China, and smaller ones in other parts of the continent. The plains, having a fertile soil, and for the most part plenty of rain and a hot or temperate climate, are densely populated.

In the central and southern part of the continent are extensive plateaus and lofty mountain ranges, some of which are always snow covered. The Pamir, which, because of its height, has long been known as the "Roof of the World," is a center from which radiate the Himalaya, Karakoram, Kuenlun, Thian Shan, and Hindu Kush mountains. These lofty mountains, whose passes are occupied by snow fields and glaciers, are a great hindrance to travel and trade.

Although Asia has the highest mountains in the world, there is some land on the continent that is below sea level. This is true of a considerable area around the northern shore of the Caspian Sea. The streams that drain this part of Asia do not reach the ocean, but empty into the Caspian, the Aral, and other inclosed bodies of water. On this ~~account~~ these areas are said to have *continental drainage*. What part of the United States has continental drainage?





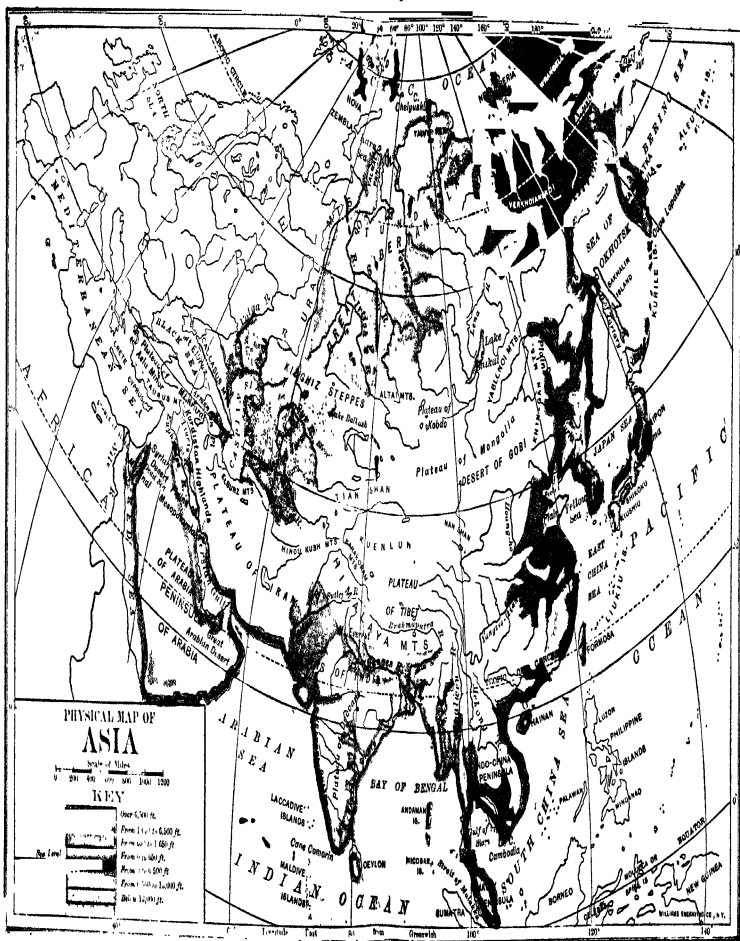


FIG 2.



The Caspian is much the largest inclosed sea in the world, being about five times as large as Lake Superior. As this sea has no outlet, its waters are, of course, salt. Much fishing is carried on in the Caspian, and vessels enter and leave the sea by way of the Volga River. Near the mouth of this river is Astrakan, an important port, and farther south is Baku, from which much petroleum is exported. Lake Aral is nearly as large as Lake Superior, but it is quite shallow, and very briney. The water contains so much salt that there is no life found in it.

While there are many great rivers in Asia, there are few that are commercially important. Three very long rivers drain a large part of the Siberian plain. These are the Ob, the Yenisei (yĕn ĭ se' ĭ), and the Lena. As you have been told, these and the smaller streams that flow into the Arctic are ice-bound for several months each year, and therefore are used but little by vessels. The Amur and the Yangtse carry considerable commerce, but the Hoang Ho is shallow, and its channel is constantly shifting. Of the great rivers of India, the Ganges is the only one that is navigable to any considerable extent. The map shows you that neither Arabia nor Persia has a single large river.

Because Asia includes such a great range in latitude, altitude, and distance from the sea, all of the climates

of the globe are represented in this continent. Near the town of Verkhoyansk (vêrk hoy ansk') the lowest known temperature in the northern hemisphere ( $-92^{\circ}$  F.) has been recorded. This spot is, therefore, known as the *cold pole*. With the exception of a thin surface layer, the ground in this part of the continent is frozen to a depth of many, many feet in the summer as well as in the winter.

Farther south the summers are longer, and the winters are less severe, although in the interior there are great seasonal extremes in temperature, partly because of the long distance from the ocean. The rainfall is scanty in much of the central part of Asia because the surrounding mountains deprive the winds of their moisture before they reach the region. Here, then, we find large desert areas such as Gobi (gō'bō). Some of the deserts, being high, are cold and consequently have a sparse population.

On the lowlands of India and Indo-China there is perpetual summer. Where the rainfall is abundant there are extensive forests where the lion, tiger, elephant, and many other animals make their homes. On the warm lowlands rice, cotton, sugar, and fruits are produced. On the fertile plains the population is dense, for food is easily secured, little clothing is required, and very simple houses satisfy the natives. In such a hot and moist climate people are not very energetic.

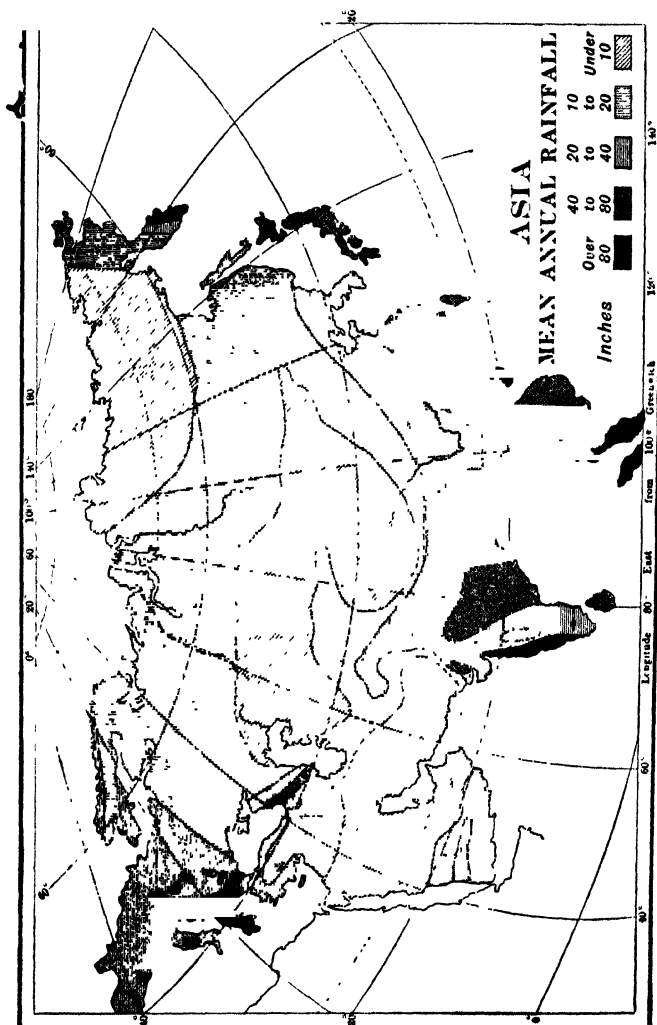


FIG. 3. Rainfall Map of Asia

Of the total population of the globe more than one half is found in Asia, but there are large areas where the population is very sparse because of desert or mountainous conditions. Where the climate is warm, and the soil fertile, hundreds of people live upon each square mile of surface. Because of the crowded condition there are many poor and uneducated people. When the crops are small, famine usually occurs in such areas.

The civilization of Asia is very old. There are written records that cover several thousand years. In some of the countries the customs of the people have remained practically the same for hundreds of years. Railroads, the telegraph, the telephone, electric light, machinery, and many other things with which we are familiar are still unknown to millions of people in Asia.

In most parts of Asia women are not regarded as highly as they are in our country. Because of this, much less attention is given to the education of girls than to that of boys. In the United States the people make the laws, but in some Asiatic countries the people have little voice in the government. Although Christianity originated in Asia, there are many millions of people there who are Buddhists, Bramins, or Moham-medans.

As a result of the dense population wages are low. Many heads of families do not receive more than ten

cents for a day's work. This means that there is much poverty. Mining is not carried on extensively, and there is little attention paid to the development of water and electric power. In many parts of the continent roads are few and poor, and in some sections they are unknown. These are some of the reasons why manufacturing and commerce have not been developed in Asia as they have in the United States and Europe.

Until recent years some of the natives of Asia would not permit the people of other countries to trade with them. They wished to live in their own way, undisturbed by others. In 1868 Japan opened her land to the people of all nations, and since that time she has made wonderful progress. She has learned many things from the people of other lands, and the people of other nations have learned much from her. At last the form of government that has existed for so many centuries in China has been overthrown, and perhaps very rapid advancement is to come to this nation also.

The United States now owns the Philippine Islands, the home of several million people, and a land that produces many of the things that we have to buy. Although Manila is about 7000 miles from San Francisco, the trip can be made by steamer in about fifteen days. Every year a large number of people from the United States visit Japan, China, India, and other parts of Asia. A cable now connects our country with Asia



by way of the Hawaiian Islands. Many Japanese people are coming to the United States, some as laborers, some as students, and some as visitors. We are thus steadily becoming better acquainted with the people of Asia, and this means greater friendship between our own and other nations.

## CHAPTER II

### TURKEY

Two straits and the Sea of Marmora connect the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. One of these straits, the Bosphorus, is but two miles in width in its widest part, while in its narrowest part the width is only one third of a mile. When one is on the west shore of this strait he is in Europe, when on the east shore he is in Asia. The land on both sides of the strait belongs to the same country — Turkey. On this account we speak of Turkey in Europe and Turkey in Asia. What other country is partly in each of these continents?

! Turkey is a large country, having an area more than three times as great as that of France or Germany. Its total population is not equal to one half that of the German Empire, however. Asiatic Turkey is more than ten times as large as European Turkey, and its population is much larger also.

Before the beginning of the Christian era a Grecian city called Byzantium existed on the west side of the Bosphorus. Later a Roman Emperor, whose name was Constantine, conquered Byzantium, made it the capital

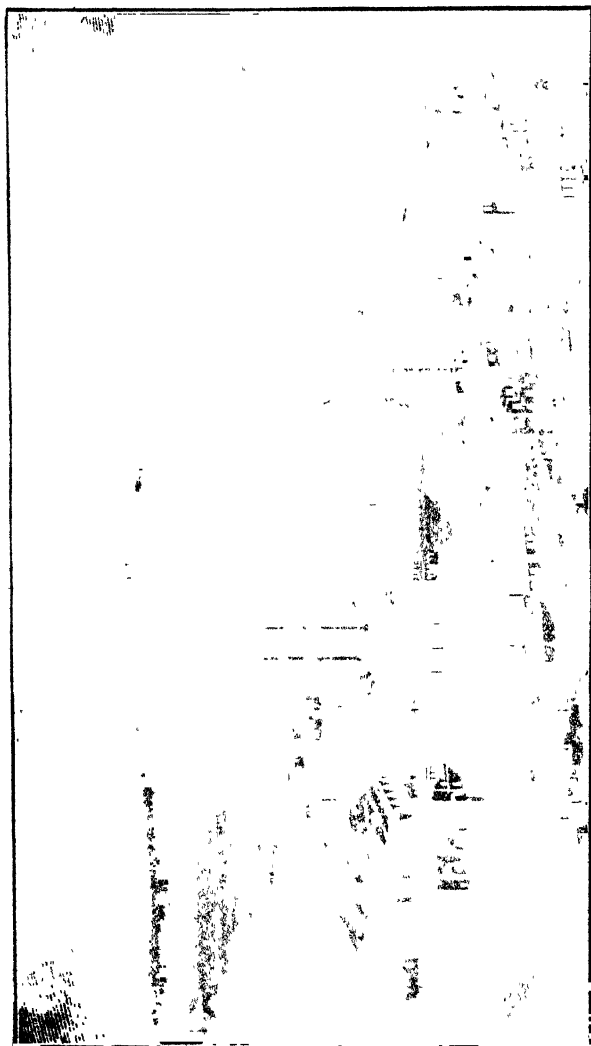
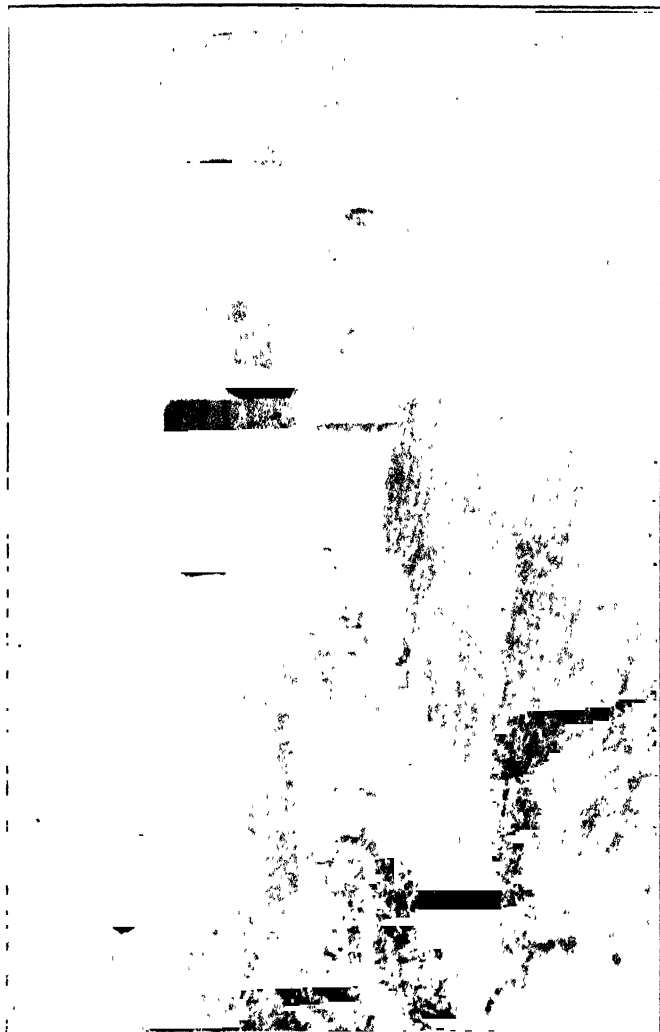


FIG. 4. A view of Constantinople



*Photo by Horell*

FIG. 5. Fortress of the Seven Towers, Stamboul. This picture shows a part of the old wall.

of the Roman Empire, and named it Constantinople. Polis means city, so Constantinople means the *City of Constantine*. Hundreds of years later the Turks took possession of Constantinople, and made it the capital of Turkey.

To-day Constantinople is one of the large cities of the world, having a population of more than 1,000,000. It is built upon the slopes of hills that rise from an arm of the sea some five miles in length. This indentation, which furnishes a deep and well protected harbor, is called the *Golden Horn*. The part of the city situated on the south side of the Golden Horn is called by Europeans Stamboul. Originally a wall having twenty-eight gates surrounded Stamboul. On the north side of the Golden Horn is a part of Constantinople called Galata.

Now look at your map and notice what countries border upon the Black Sea. Which is the most important of these? How is the position of Constantinople advantageous?

Like most very old cities, the Turkish capital has many crooked, narrow, and dirty streets. The city has also a large number of palaces, mosques, and fine public buildings. Until quite recently there were hundreds of homeless dogs upon the streets and sidewalks of the city. While walking along the streets people were frequently obliged to step over sleeping dogs. They



*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 6. Dogs in street in Constantinople

became such a nuisance that they were finally abolished by the government.

The people of Turkey drink much coffee, and it is the custom for shop keepers to invite their customers to drink a cup of this beverage. Many wares are displayed upon the streets and sidewalks, under umbrella-like awnings, or are hung in front of the shops. Occasionally we see a man standing beside a small table, which is about three feet in height, and is supported by a tripod. Upon these tables are piled quantities of articles somewhat resembling immense doughnuts. They are called "simits," and are a very popular article of food, similar to pretzels.

From Constantinople the shore of Asia is plainly visible. Directly across on the east side of the strait, is the city of Scutaria. This is really a suburb of Constantinople, situated upon the Boyana River about sixteen miles from the sea. Some ship building is carried on here, and the city exports wool, hides, and corn. Trains are now ferried across the Bosphorus between Constantinople and Hadar Pasha. Name a place in the United States where trains are ferried.

As you have been told, Turkey in Asia is a very large country. Some of it is rugged, and much of it is very dry. There is a scarcity of timber, for the forests have been largely cut, and Turkey pays little heed to reforestation. There is little attention given to

mining or to manufacturing. This is, in part, due to the poverty of the people. Herding and agriculture are the leading occupations. Agriculture is carried on in a primitive fashion, very little machinery being employed. Much plowing is done by means of oxen and buffaloes.

• Southwestern Asia is a peninsula to which the people of ancient times gave the name of Asia Minor, meaning *smaller Asia*. It is often called *Anatolia*, which comes from a Greek word meaning east. Mountains extend along the shores of the Black and the Mediterranean seas, and the whole peninsula is largely a plateau. Along the coast the mountains condense considerable moisture, but in the interior it is quite dry. As is the case in California, winter is the rainy season.

Asia Minor is a land rich in history. In the western part was located the ancient city of Troy, and it was here that Achilles, Ulysses, Ajax, Agamemnon, Hector, and other heroes performed such valiant deeds in the Trojan War. The Meander River winds its way to the sea as it did during the days of the Trojans. It is a small stream, only about two hundred and thirty miles long.

Five centuries before the birth of Christ, Asia Minor, which was even then an old country, was conquered by the Persians. Later it passed into the hands of the Greeks, and then into those of the Romans. In all



parts of the peninsula there are ruins of once great cities. Ancient olive trees wave their branches over some of these buried cities. The whole country is now under the rule of Turkey.

Olives, grapes, figs, oranges, peaches, apricots, rice, cotton, wheat, and barley are grown. In the interior



*Photo by French*

FIG. 7. Camels bringing freight to Smyrna

little can be grown without irrigation. Herding is a leading occupation. There is little manufacturing except what is done by hand in the homes of the people.

The old city of Smyrna is the chief Mediterranean

port of Asia Minor. It was founded about three thousand years ago. It is built on the slope of a hill at the head of the Gulf of Smyrna. Carpets, silks, figs, raisins, and tobacco are the leading exports.

From Smyrna a railroad leads eastward across a plateau. Trebizond is the most important of Asia Minor's Black Sea ports.

The northern part of the country is known as Armenia. The Armenians are Christians and are quite progressive. They have been cruelly persecuted by the Turks, who are not Christians. Where Persia, Turkey, and Russia meet, stands Mt. Ararat, an extinct volcano more than seventeen thousand feet in altitude. We read in the Bible that the ark rested "on the mountains of Ararat." The Armenian name of this old mountain means "Mountain of the ark," while the Persians call it "Moab's Mountain."

Just north of the Holy Land is situated the ancient city of Damascus. No one knows how old it is. Some believe that it was founded by Uz, the great-grandson of Noah. Damascus was once a very important city, being extensively engaged in manufacturing and in commerce. It is not now so important along these lines, but it is the largest city in Asiatic Turkey today.

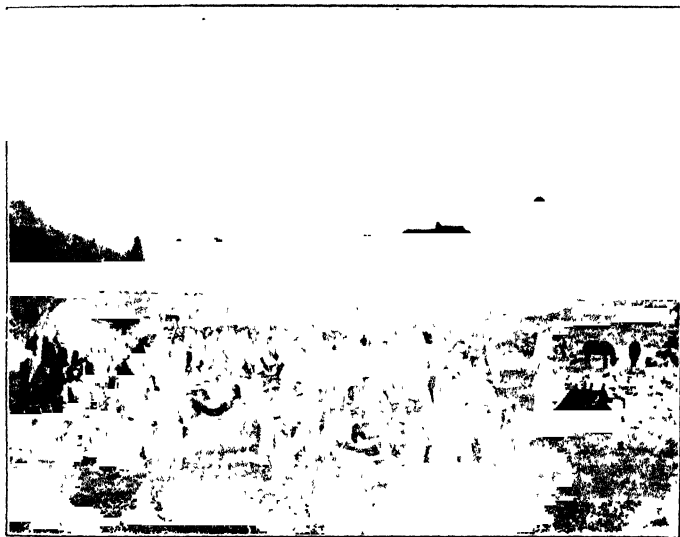
Viewed from a distance, Damascus appears like a wonderfully beautiful city. The roofs and domes of



*Photo by Howell*

**FIG. 8.** Damascus. End of the street called "Strait" (1900).

its buildings gleam in the sunshine, and rise above the green foliage of orchard and shade trees. When we have passed within the partially ruined wall surrounding the city, the beauty vanishes. The houses



*Copyright' by Brown Bros*

FIG. 9. A scene in Mesopotamia

are very plain in their architecture. Some have mud-plastered walls. The upper story, in most cases, projects so far over the narrow and dirty street that a person leaning from a second story window can nearly shake hands with his neighbor across the way. The street called "Straight" is the finest in the city. Of



The embattled floods, by mutual whirlpools crossed,  
In hoary foam and surging mist were lost,  
Thence, like an Alpine cataract of snow,  
White down the precipice they dashed below.  
Thence in tumultuous billows broken wide,  
They spent their rage, and yoked their fourfold tide;  
Through one majestic channel, calm and free,  
The sister rivers sought the parent sea."

JAMIE MONTGOMERY.

The government of Turkey has not been favorable to progress. The ruler, who is called the *Sultan* had, until 1908, unlimited power, and often it was used very cruelly. In that year there was an uprising, and the Sultan was compelled to give up much of his authority. This caused great rejoicing. The people now have much greater religious as well as civil liberty.

## CHAPTER III

### THE HOLY LAND

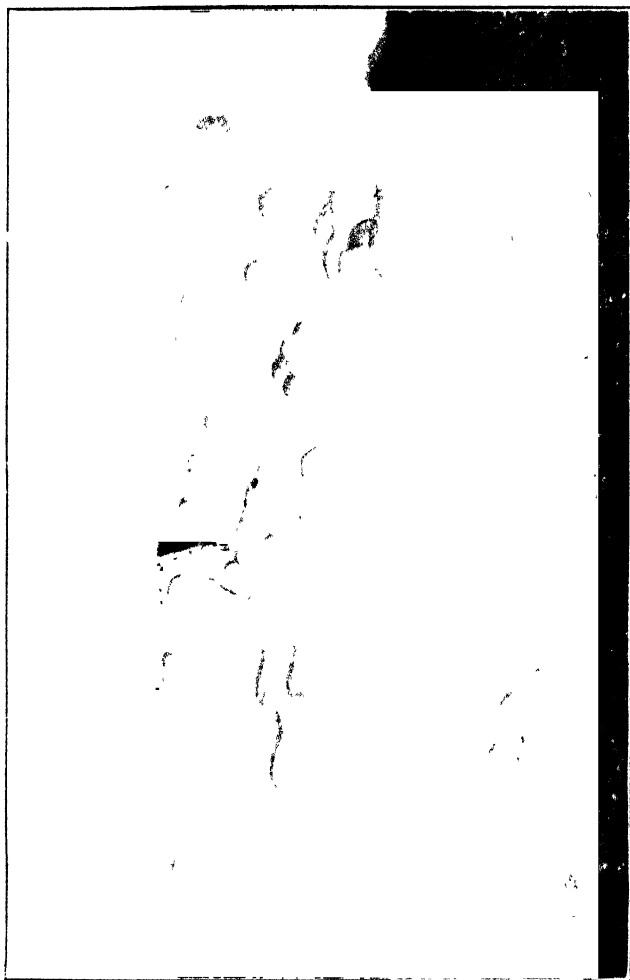
THE most interesting part of Asia Minor is Palestine or the Holy Land. This country extends northward from the head of the Red Sea for a distance of about one hundred and fifty miles, and is some sixty miles in width. Bordering the Mediterranean coast, which is very regular and without good harbors, is a narrow strip of fairly well-watered land. This is because a range of mountains condenses the moisture that the wind carries from the Mediterranean. Beyond these mountains is a wonderful depression. The northern part is occupied by the Sea of Galilee, a body of fresh water.

The river Jordan flows from the south end of the Sea of Galilee. The land on either side of the river for a distance of from three to ten miles is below the level of the Mediterranean. If you will look at a map of the Holy Land you will see that there are very few towns on this low land. This is partly because the people of long ago built their towns upon hills where they could be easily defended. There is a road on









*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 11. A shepherd and his flock near the Dead Sea

either side of the river because traveling is easier on the flat land than on the hilly land.

The Dead Sea has no outlet, and as the climate is very dry, the water is intensely salt. A given volume contains about eight times as much salt as is found in ocean water. Its waters contain no life, and it is this fact that gives the sea its name. The surface of the Dead Sea is about one thousand three hundred feet below the level of the Mediterranean, and, in the deepest part, the sea is about as many feet in depth. It is not a very large body of water, being about forty miles in length and ten miles in width.

On the east and west shores of the Dead Sea there are many very high cliffs. There is little vegetation, except in some of the ravines on the east side, where oleander trees grow. All objects upon which the spray falls become coated with salt, and therefore the shores present a desolate appearance.

Let us visit the homes of some of the common people. We will go to a town or village because in Palestine even farmers live in villages for protection. Around the town, a wall has been built and people enter and leave the town by means of one or more gates. At sunset these gates are closed. How peculiar this custom seems to us!

On the lowlands, where both timber and stone are scarce, the houses are commonly built of mud, while

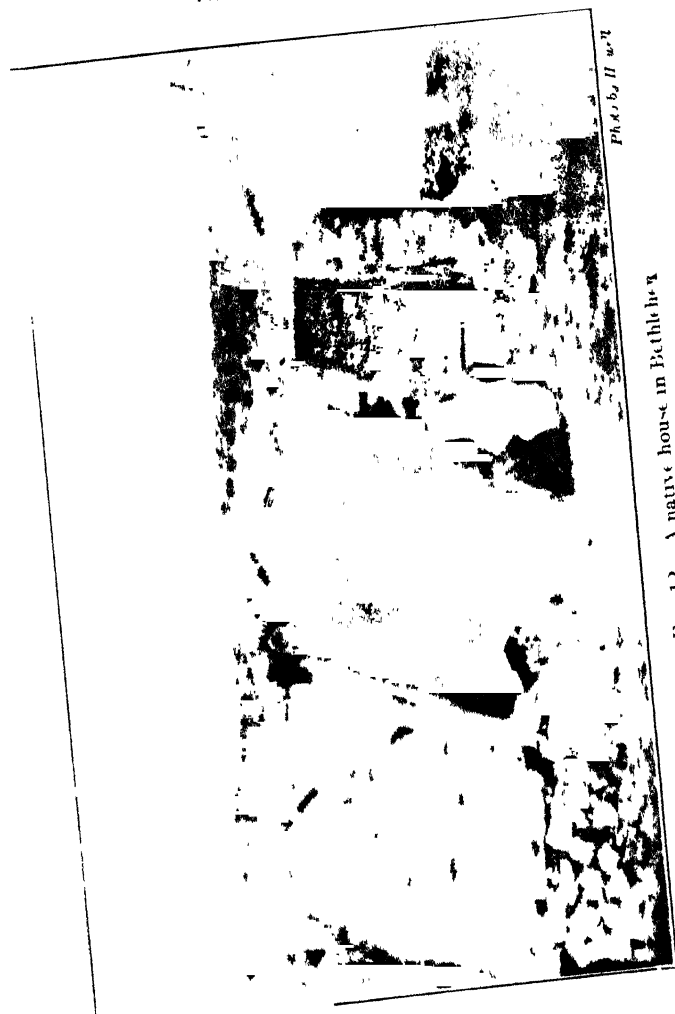
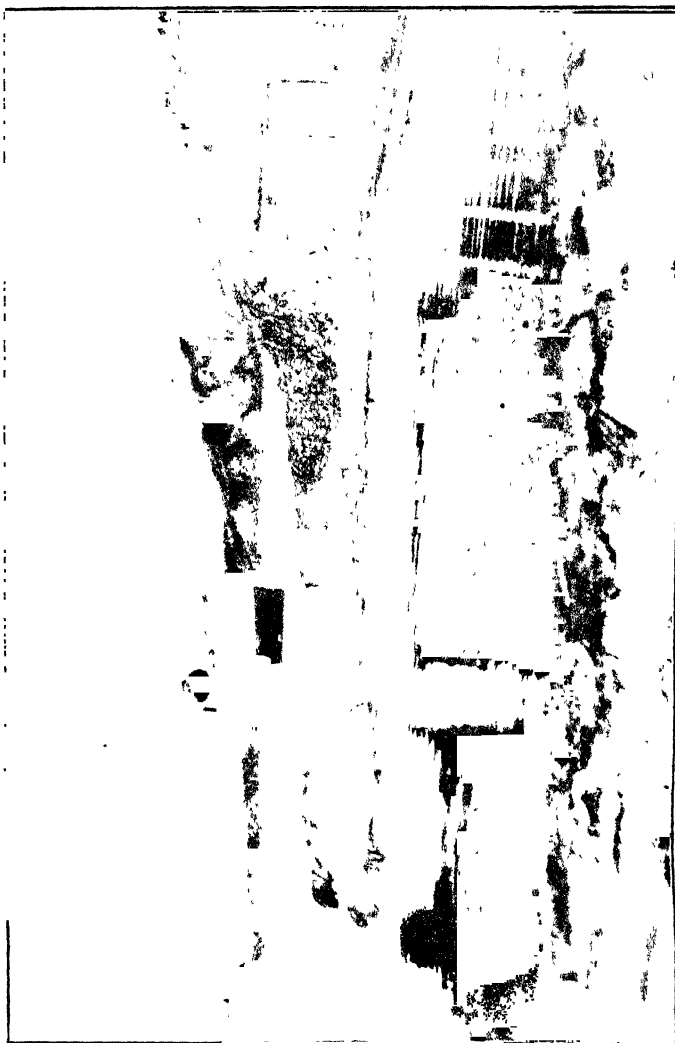


FIG. 12 A native house in Bethlehem

in the hilly districts stone is used. A house in the Holy Land usually consists of but one room. There are no beds, tables, chairs, or stoves. The bedding is kept in a niche in one wall during the day, and at night it is spread upon the floor, or perhaps upon the roof. There are mats upon which the people sit, and we see a few cooking utensils and some jars for water, honey, and oil.

The houses are very gloomy, for they are usually without windows. We observe that when windows do exist they are placed high in the walls. This is to prevent robbers from getting into the houses, or from shooting into them through the windows. As a further means of protection, the walls are thick and the doors are very strong.

You would not care to live in such cheerless houses as these. Even their owners do not spend a great deal of time in them. They live out of doors much of the time, for the climate is mild. The roof is a favorite gathering place, because it is cool, and during the dry season it is quite a common custom to sleep there. You are wondering how this is possible. The picture shows you that the roof is usually flat. The wooden beams and poles that are laid across the walls are covered with mud. Before the rainy season is over, weeds and grass are growing on the roof, and it is not an uncommon thing to see goats calmly feeding there.



*Photo by Horrell*

**FIG. 13. Elisha's fountain**

In Palestine there is little rain, and water is highly prized. Many of the houses have cisterns into which runs the water that falls upon the roof during the rainy season, and in which it is stored for use. Some families have wells, and such people are considered very fortunate. In order to guard the water during the long, dry summer, the man of the house often sleeps upon the cover of the well or cistern.

In the Holy Land, as in many other parts of Asia, the women do much of the work. The grinding of wheat is a task that the women of the household have to perform daily. How singular it would seem to us to make the flour in our homes instead of buying it in sacks or barrels!

A family flour mill in the Holy Land consists of two circular stones about eighteen inches in diameter. A small iron rod passes through the center of the two stones, and by means of a handle fastened to the upper stone it is turned upon the lower one. In grinding, the woman sits upon the floor with a basket of wheat beside her. The kernels of wheat are dropped into the hole through which the iron rod extends. Sometimes the mill rests upon an earthenware jar into which the flour falls, and sometimes the flour is collected upon a cloth that has been spread underneath the mill. These mills are just like those that are spoken of in the Bible.

Now let us see how the bread is baked. The oven,

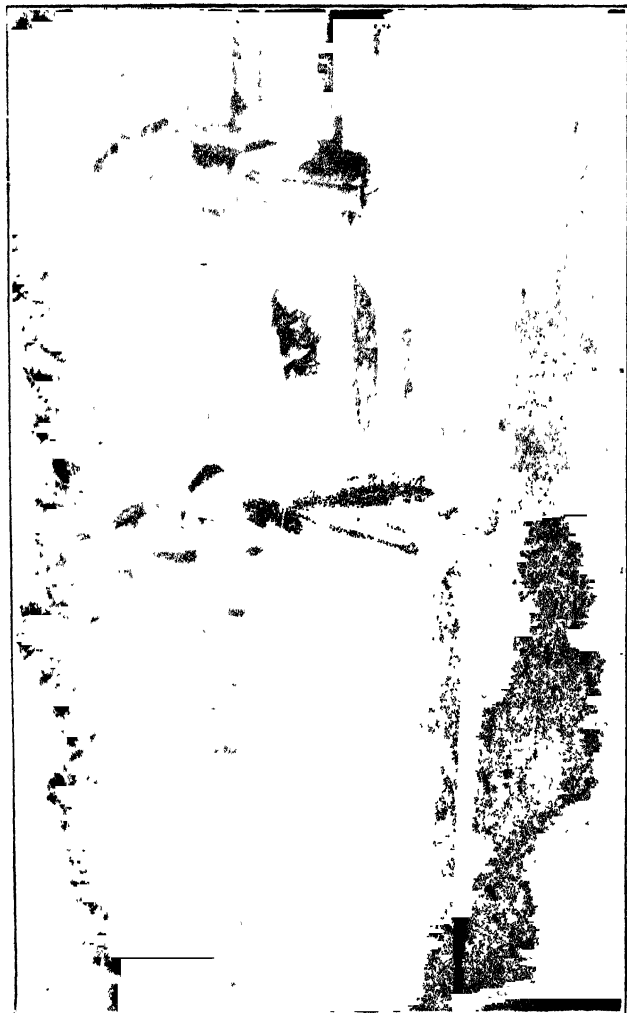
which is made of clay and is perhaps three feet in diameter, stands in a little hut built for this purpose. Several families frequently own an oven in common. A fire is made on the mud floor outside of the oven, and the coals are heaped up around it. The dough in the form of flat cakes is placed upon the floor of the oven, and the opening at the top is covered to keep in the heat. The people do not cut their bread when serving it, but break it with their hands.

Breakfast and the midday meal usually consist of fruits and bread. In the evening a hot meal is cooked. This consists of bread, rice, vegetables, and sometimes meat. When a meal is served, the members of the family gather about one or more large dishes in which the food has been placed. They sit upon mats instead of chairs.

After the meal, a servant or some member of the family pours water over the hands of each of the others, and a towel is passed around. Coffee is then served, and the men light their pipes. When a cup of coffee is presented to a guest, the one presenting it says, "Do me the honor." The guest replies, "May you live long."

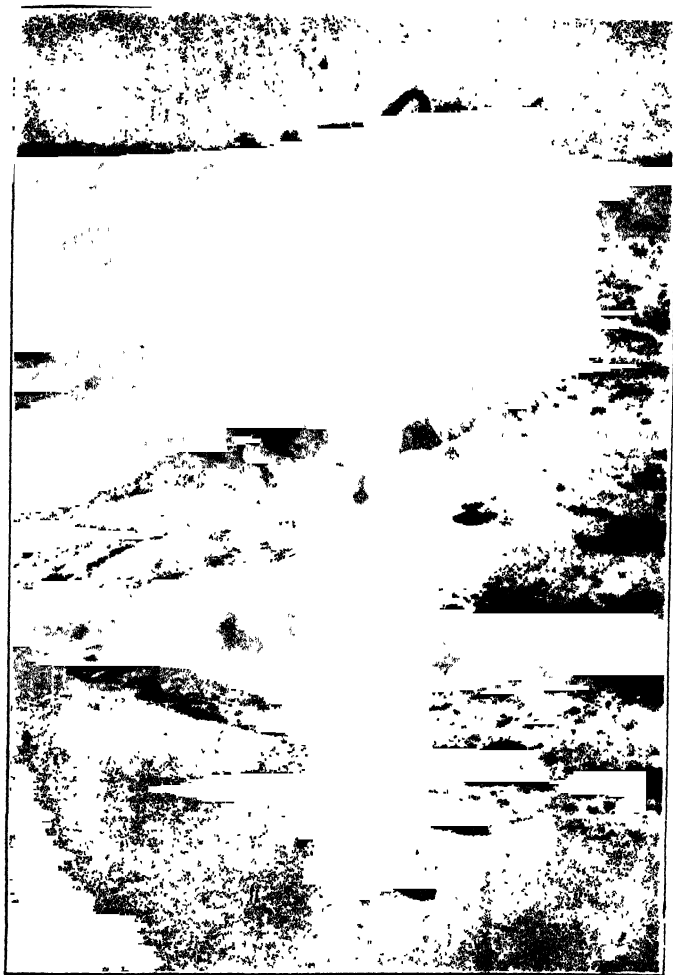
Have you ever seen churning done? In Palestine it is done in a very strange way. The cream is put into a goatskin bag which is suspended from a tripod. Women sit upon the ground on either





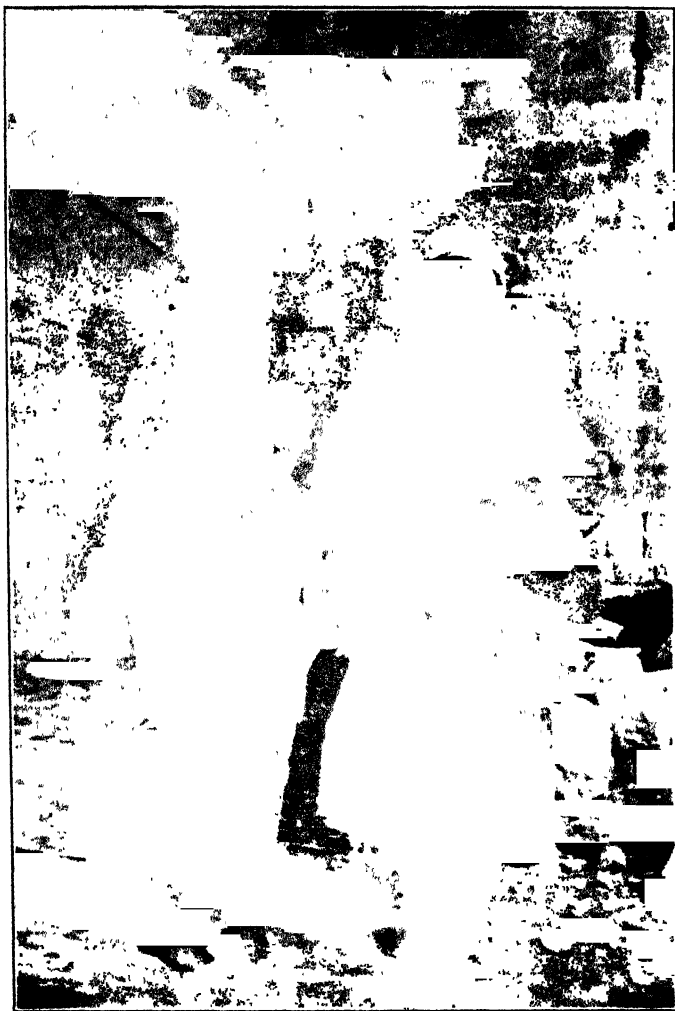
*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 14. Peasant women of the Holy Land carrying water in jars



*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 15. Girl carrying brush for fuel



*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 16. Arab peasants in Jerusalem

side of the churn and push it back and forth until the butter is produced.

In addition to the housework, the women do much work out of doors. Where the water is obtained from a spring or well, they carry it in earthen jars balanced upon their heads, or in skins slung over their shoulders. Fuel is scarce in that dry land, and women may often be seen carrying large bundles of brush upon their heads, or driving donkeys loaded with faggots.

The people in Palestine dress very differently from people in our own country or in Europe. The outer garment of the men is generally a loose robe something like a dressing gown. This reaches nearly to the ground, and is gathered at the waist by a cord. Often loose trousers of white are worn. These are fastened at the ankles. Sometimes the feet are bare, often slipper-like shoes are worn, and for rough work heavy boots are used. Usually the men's shoes are red and the shoes of the women, lemon-colored. Very frequently a turban is worn upon the head. When a man enters a house, he removes his boots or shoes.

When a man salutes you, he will say, if he is a Moslem, "Peace be upon you," and the proper reply is, "And on you be peace." A Christian will say, "God be with you," to which one should reply, "And may God preserve thee." Children and even men usually kiss the hand of their father when meeting him after an

## ASIA

absence of several days. Wives salute their husbands in the same way. If one enters a house while a meal is in progress, he is not expected to salute those present until they have finished eating.

Many of the villages are without hotels. What

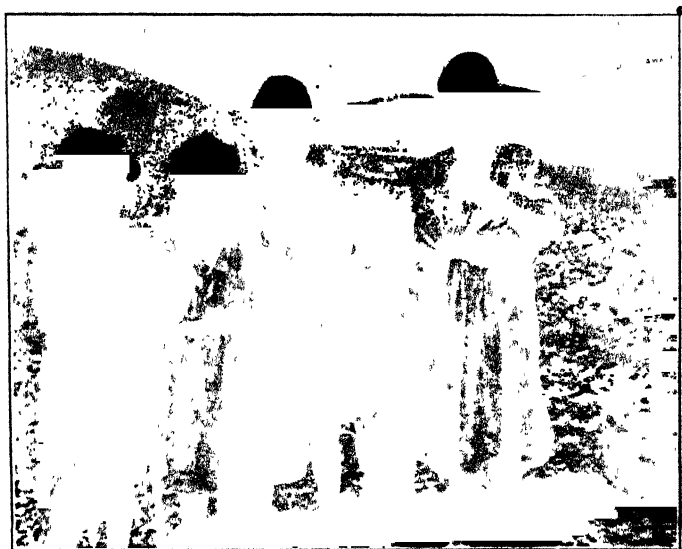


Photo by French

FIG. 17. Children in the Holy Land

is known as a *quest room* takes the place of a hotel. This is a building consisting of a single room, which is set apart for the use of travelers who have no friends in the village. The visitor is taken to this room and his meals are brought to him. It is not expected

that the entertainment thus provided is to be paid for. In the evening the men will drop in to hear the news that the traveler may have, and to smoke their pipes.

As we travel along the roads we see the people plant-



*Photo by French*

FIG. 18. Threshing grain

ing, cultivating, or harvesting their crops. As winter is the rainy season, it is the time of planting. You have never seen such plows as are used by the farmers in the Holy Land. They are of wood, iron pointed. It may be that the team is a yoke of oxen. It may consist of an ox and a donkey, or even of an ox and

## ASIA

a camel. The grain is sown by hand, and is cut by means of a sickle or scythe. How do you think the grain is threshed? It is placed upon a level piece

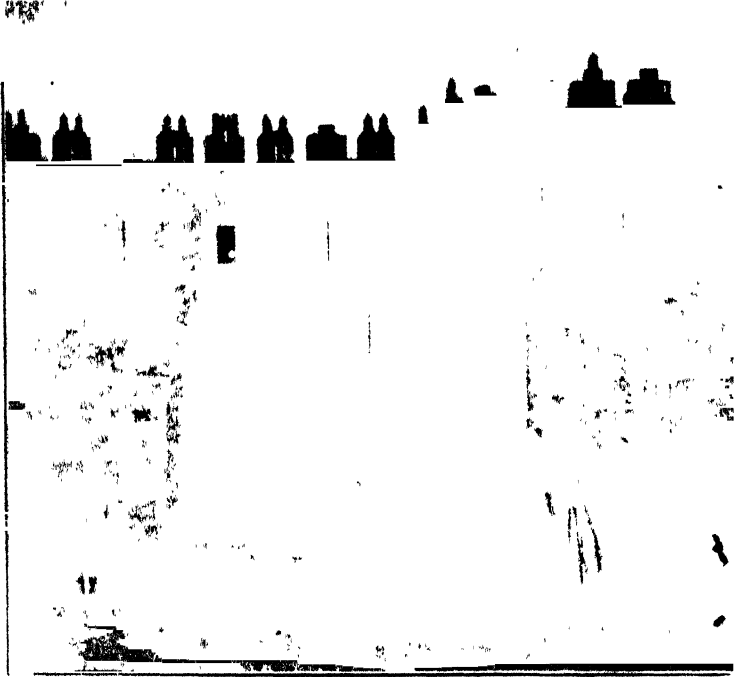


FIG. 19. Damascus Gate, Jerusalem

*Photo by Howell*

of hard ground or upon a floor of stone, called the *threshing floor*. Cattle and donkeys are then driven about over the grain, and in this way the kernels are trampled out. Sometimes animals are hitched to a

kind of platform having discs of iron projecting from the bottom. This implement somewhat resembles a pulverizer. The teeth break the straw and do the threshing more quickly than it is done by the animals. After threshing, the straw is removed and the grain gathered up. The chief crops are wheat, barley, figs, grapes, olives, oranges, and lemons.

About fifteen miles due west of the north end of the Dead Sea is Jerusalem. It is situated upon a hill having a steep slope on all sides except the north. At the south end of the hill Mt. Zion and Mt. Moriah are located. A wall thirty-eight feet high and two and one half miles in circumference surrounds this ancient city. The city is divided into four sections, one for the Jews, one for the Moslems, one for the Armenians, and one for the other Christians.

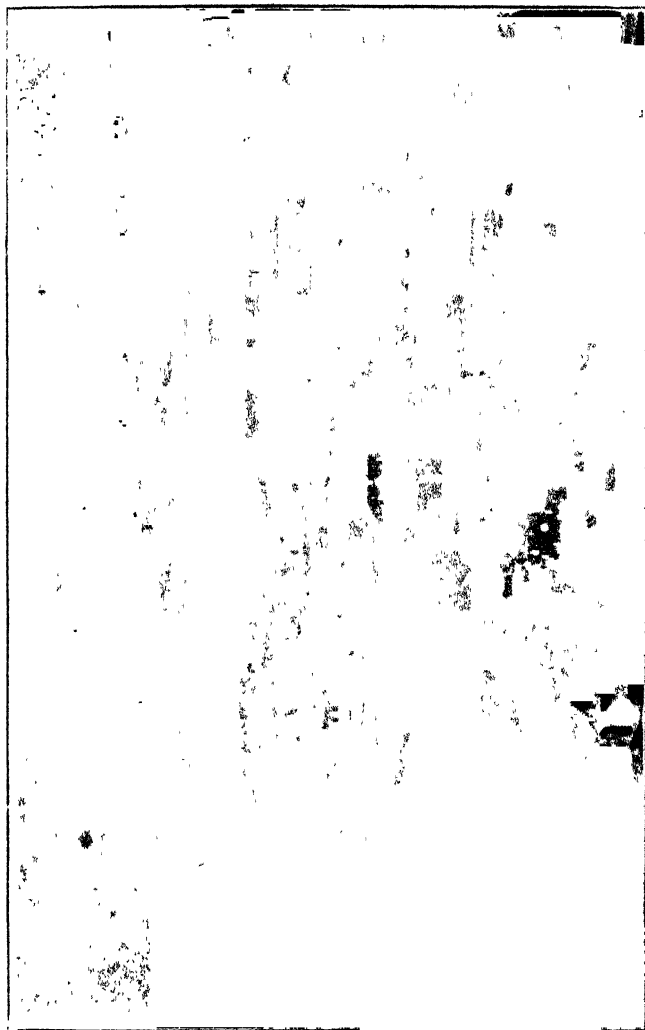
We enter this city, of which we have heard so much, by means of the Joppa Gate. Just outside the gate is a market place where camels, donkeys, pottery, groceries, fruits, and many other things are sold. Public letter writers and money changers are plying their trades, and girls are selling lemonade. Here may be seen caravans starting out on a journey or returning from one.

The streets of Jerusalem are narrow, crooked, and dirty, and some of them are quite steep. Many of the shops are open to the street, and we can see the men



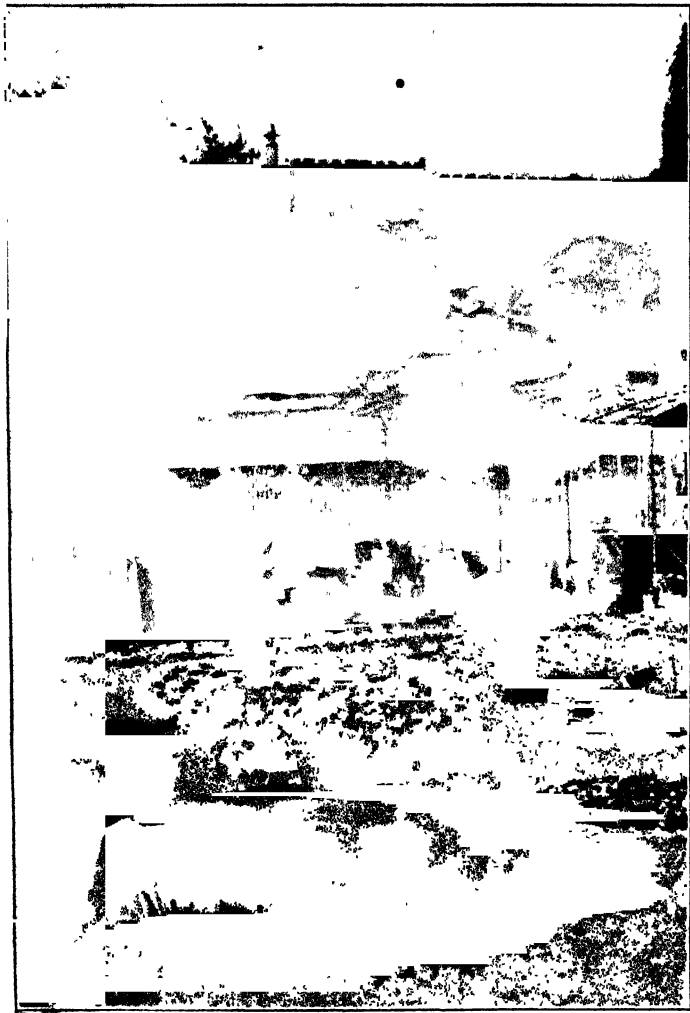
*Photo by Hoevel*

FIG. 20. Market place in Jerusalem



*Photo by Howell*

**Fig. 21. A view of Jerusalem**



*Photo by Howell*

**FIG. 22. Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem**

within making shoes and other articles of clothing, pans, pots, and other things. In the city there is a substantial railroad station constructed of stone. The population of Jerusalem is about sixty thousand.

To the west of Jerusalem is the Mount of Olives, and about five miles to the south is the town of Bethlehem. The name means "House of Bread." Olive groves surround the town. It was to Bethlehem that the three wise men journeyed to see the Christ Child. We see people traveling on camel back to-day just as these wise men did so many centuries ago.

To-day Bethlehem is a small city, with little manufacturing or trade. Wine is made, and beads, shells, and jewel boxes are sold to tourists. It is its history that makes the city important, and every year it is visited by people from all parts of the world.

From Jerusalem a railroad winds its way over the mountains and across the coastal plain to Joppa, its seaport, about fifty miles away. The city has a very poor harbor, but it exports some oranges, olive oil, barley, and wool. At Joppa we get aboard a vessel and sail southward along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean. We shall always remember this wonderful land, where so much history is centered. Its village-crowned hills, its flat-roofed houses, its olive groves with their gray-green foliage, the dress, and the customs of the people will long remain in our memories.



*Photo by Howell*

**FIG. 23. Church of the Nativity and entrance to Grotto of the Manger, Bethlehem**

**(44)**

## PALESTINE

“Blest land of Judea ! \*thrice hallowed of song,  
Where the holiest of memories pilgrimlike throng ;  
In the shade of thy palms by the shores of thy sea,  
On the hills of thy beauty, my heart is with thee.

‘Blue sea of the hills’ in my spirit I hear  
Thy waters Gennesaret, chime on my ear ;  
Where the Holy and Just with the people sat down,  
And thy spray on the dust of his sandals was thrown.

“Lo, Bethlehem’s hill site before me is seen,  
With the mountains around, and the valleys between ;  
There rested the shepherds of Judah, and there  
The song of the angels rose sweet on the air.

‘And Bethany’s palm trees in beauty still throw  
Their shadows at noon on the ruins below ;  
But where are the sisters who hastened to greet  
The lowly Redeemer, and sit at his feet ?

‘And throned on her hills sits Jerusalem yet,  
But with dust on her forehead, and chains on her feet ;  
For the crown of her pride to the mocker hath gone,  
And the holy Shechinah is dark where it shone.’

— WHITTIER.

## CHAPTER IV

### ARABIA

At the Strait of Gibraltar, Europe and Africa are separated by only a few miles of water. A ship entering this strait can sail eastward some 2000 miles before reaching the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, which is a part of the western coast of Asia. The low, flat Isthmus of Suez connects Asia and Africa.

For many centuries there has been commerce between the Mediterranean countries of Europe and Persia, India and China. Several routes were followed. One crossed the island-dotted Mediterranean to its eastern shore. By caravan the journey was continued to the Tigris or the Euphrates rivers, and thence to the Persian Gulf. From the head of this gulf the voyage to India was made by water. There were also land routes leading from western Europe to far distant China, where much raw silk was obtained. For hundreds of years there were no railroads and no wagon roads. Horses, donkeys, and camels were used to transport the articles of commerce.

In those days a trip from Europe to China required many months. There were rivers, mountains, and

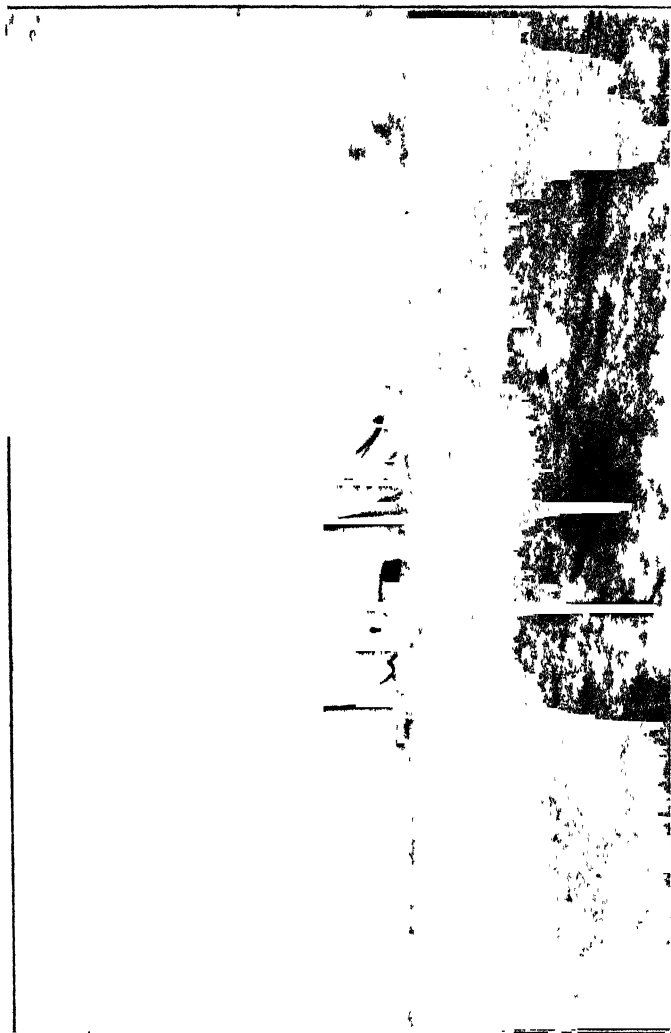
deserts to be crossed. Warlike bands of men sometimes attacked the caravans, and carried off the goods. Thus these overland journeys were long, tedious, and dangerous. If the Mediterranean and the Red Sea had been connected by a strait, it would have been a much easier matter to carry on commerce between the two continents. The Isthmus of Suez blocked the way, and people had not yet sailed around Africa.

Six years after Columbus discovered America, Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese navigator, succeeded, after many hardships, in reaching India by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

It was not until 1869 that the Suez Canal was opened across the Isthmus of Suez. Although there was very little rock encountered, the work required about ten years. The canal is eighty-seven miles long and thirty-one feet deep. As it was dug to the level of the sea, no locks are required. Such a canal is called a sea-level canal. The cost of the Suez Canal was about \$100,000,000, and it is one of the great canals of the world.

Our ship enters the canal at Port Said and we slowly steam through it, the passage requiring about eighteen hours. About 4000 ships pass through the canal yearly, and each pays toll amounting to some two dollars per ton. As the canal is lighted by electricity, ships make the trip by night as well as by day.





*Photo by Howell*

FIG 24 Ship in Suez Canal

## ARABIA

At Suez, which is at the southern end of the canal, we enter the Red Sea. This body of water is more than 1000 miles long, and is very deep. Its shores are regular, and therefore there are few good harbors. On the right is the continent of Africa, and on our left the Arabian peninsula.

Arabia is a very large country, being sixteen times the size of the state of New York, and four times the area of the German Empire. In all of this vast country there are not nearly so many people as live in the city of Philadelphia. This is because a large part of the land is a desert. Springs and wells are few, vegetation is scanty, and sand dunes make traveling difficult.

Along the shores of the Red Sea there is a rim of mountains. These are high enough to chill the atmosphere and produce some rain. Little moisture falls upon the interior of Arabia, because of the mountain barrier near the coast. On the southwestern slope wheat, coffee, dates, and other crops are grown, and here are located the chief cities. Because it has some rainfall, this part of Arabia has long been known as "Happy Arabia."

The mountains along the coast, the great sand dunes, and the scarcity of food and water, make it difficult and dangerous to attempt to reach the interior of the country. People generally travel on the backs

of camels or swift horses. Arabia has long been known for its beautiful and fleet horses. Some of the trained horses that you have seen at the circus are of Arabian stock. The country has but one railroad, and it was not constructed for the purpose of transporting.



*Copyrighted by Brown Bros*

FIG. 25 Arab traveling near sand dunes

commodities, or of developing the country. The road extends from Damascus to Mecca, and was built in order to carry people to and from Mecca, the holy city of the Mohammedans.

At Jedda we leave our ship and board a train for Mecca. The cars are crowded with people, many of whom have journeyed from Damascus. A large number of pilgrims still travel by camel, although the

journey is long and tedious. Women as well as men visit the holy city.

In the city of Mecca, some 1300 years ago, Mohammed, the founder of Mohammedanism, was born. This is why the followers of Mohammed regard Mecca as holy. Morning, noon, and night, at the hour of



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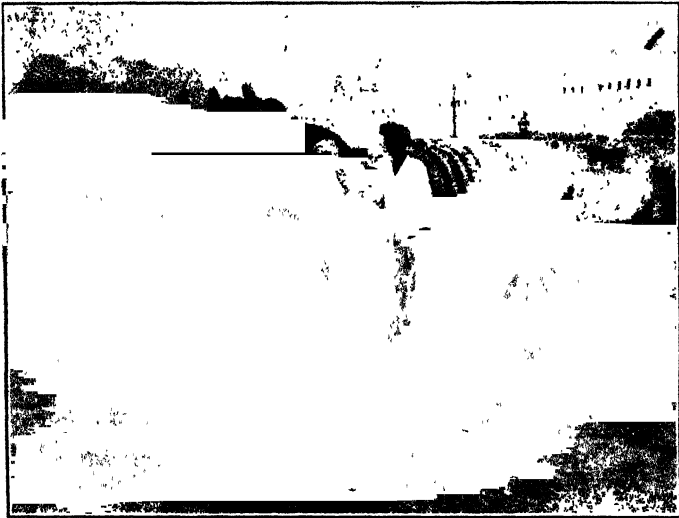
FIG. 26. Street view in Port Said

prayer, all true Mohammedans, no matter where they may be, face Mecca and prostrate themselves.

Mecca is situated in a dry valley, surrounded by bare hills and desolate stretches of sand. On a square, inclosed by an arcade above which rise cupolas and minarets, is the "Holy Mosque." In the center of the court is the *Kaaba* or cube. This is a structure

## ASIA

some forty feet in height, to which people are admitted by means of a silver door. Near this door is a black stone which was venerated even before the birth of Mohammed. The people believe that this stone



*Photo by Magie*

FIG. 27. A sprinkling cart in Aden

was given to Ishmael, the father of the Arabs, by an angel.

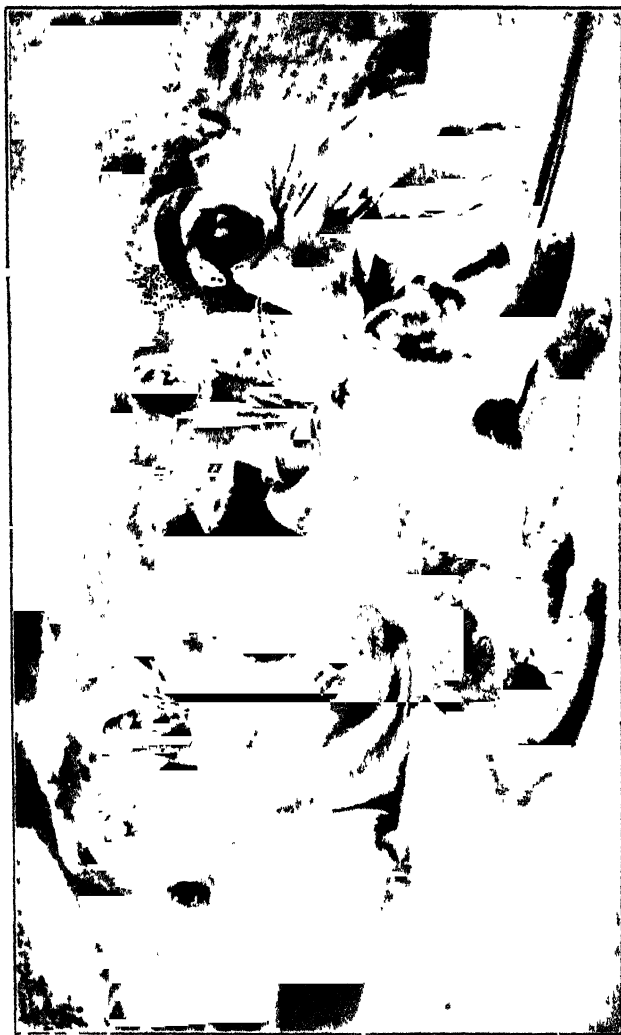
Returning to Jedda, we continue our journey along the Red Sea. On the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, which leads to the Gulf of Aden, is Mocha, a city from which some coffee is exported. Aden, on the gulf of the same name, was purchased by the English in 1839.

Its position is important because it guards the southern entrance to the Red Sea. •

Aden has a good harbor. The city climbs from the water up the slope of an extinct volcano. Where ages ago nature hurled rocks, lava, ash, and steam into the air, man has planted cannon ready to hurl destruction upon the ships of an enemy. Much coffee is exported from Aden.

Not far from the coast of Oman are mountains. These condense considerable moisture, causing rain, and water is led to the lower land, where there are many date palm trees. In fact, date gardens are found near the coast for a distance of 150 miles northwest of Muscat. As a means of protection the people live in villages rather than in the country. Camels are generally employed in traveling, and because of the great heat by day much traveling is done at night. During the day the travelers seek such shade as the scattering tamarisk, oleander, or acacias afford, or they make a sort of tent by stretching blankets across boxes or bales of goods.

The people in the interior of Arabia are, in large part, *nomadic*; that is, they have no fixed places of abode. As pasturage fails, they drive their flocks and herds from place to place. They see few strangers, for there are no roads, and there is little commerce. They are proud of their wild, free life, and are suspicious of travelers. They live in tents, which have



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none of the conveniences that are found in your home. In the cities the houses are usually built of brick or stone and have flat roofs. The Arab women who live in towns veil their faces, but those who live in the country are allowed much more freedom and they do not wear the veil.

The Arabians, like the people of the Holy Land, wear a cloaklike garment. It is usually made of camel's hair. On their heads they wear turbans. Coffee is the national drink. It is generally excellent in quality, and is served in small cups. As a compliment to his guests, the host usually tastes the coffee before it is handed to them.

## ARABIA

"O'er Arabia's desert sands  
The patient camel walks,  
'Mid lonely caves and rocky lands  
The fell hyena stalks.

"On the cool and shady hills  
Coffee shrubs and tam'rinds grow ;  
Headlong fall the welcome rills  
Down the fruitless dells below.

"The fragrant myrrh and healing balm  
Perfume the passing gale ;  
Thick hung with dates the spreading palm  
Towers o'er the peopled vale."



## CHAPTER V

### PERSIA

For about 2500 years Persia has been a kingdom. It is three times as large as France, yet its population is only approximately one fourth as great. In some parts of the country one can travel for long distances without seeing a village.

Just south of the Caspian Sea rises a mountain system known as the Elburz. Many of its peaks are snow-covered during the summer as well as in the winter. Mt. Demavend, the most lofty of these, is of volcanic origin, and reaches an altitude of 18,000 feet. The climate and products on the opposite sides of this lofty mountain system are very different. On the Caspian side the winds are deprived of their moisture, and an abundance of rain falls. In places this amounts to fifty inches per year. Because of the abundant rainfall there are forests, and on the low plain rice, wheat, and fruits are grown, the mulberry tree flourishes, and considerable silk is produced. From the Caspian Sea quantities of fish are obtained. This section is often called the garden of Persia. It supplies much food to Teheran, the capital.

The central part of Persia is a plateau some 2000 feet in elevation. There are large depressions in this plateau once occupied by inland seas. As the water evaporated, the salt was left, and this gleams in the sunshine like fields of snow.

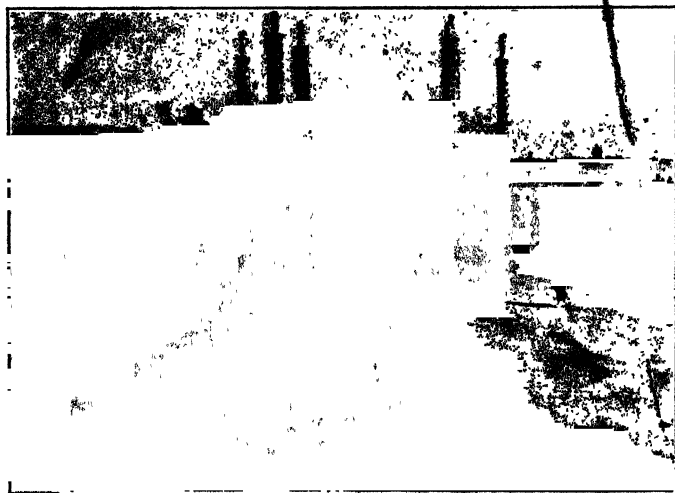
Most of the plateau of Persia is too dry for cultivation. It is said that there is not enough water to keep one tenth of it under tillage. Where water can be obtained, cotton, silk, olives, tobacco, fruits, and poppies are produced. The poppy is a very important crop, from which opium is made.

Like Arabia, Persia has few streams. There is but one navigable river, the Karun. This absence of rivers hinders the development of the country. There are but a few miles of railroad in the entire kingdom, and wagon roads are not common. Travel and trade are carried on by means of mules, donkeys, and camels. The lack of means of transportation leads to starvation in some cases, for the food produced in one section cannot be carried to the people in other sections where it is needed. A new cart road has been built from Resht, which is situated on the shore of the Caspian Sea, to Teheran.

Teheran is located just south of the Elburz Mountains, and on the edge of a desert region stretching southward. There are passes through the mountains by means of which the city is connected with the fertile

Caspian Sea slope. Water is brought to the city and to the fields and orchards in tunnels. About twenty-five miles northeast of Teheran, Mt. Demavend lifts its snow-crowned head. -

Teheran has walls and gates and some beautiful mosques. You would find the dwellings of the com-



*Copyrighted by Brown Bros.*

FIG. 29. Scene in Teheran

mon people disappointing. They are made of sun-dried bricks, and face streets that are narrow, crooked, and dirty.

Tabriz is situated upon a plain in the northwestern part of Persia. Well-watered gardens and orchards surround it. Many rugs are manufactured here, some of

which are exported to the United States. Earthquakes have many times caused great loss of life in the city.

A Persian house generally consists of two divisions, one for the men and one for the women. The man's power in the house is supreme. When a Persian has

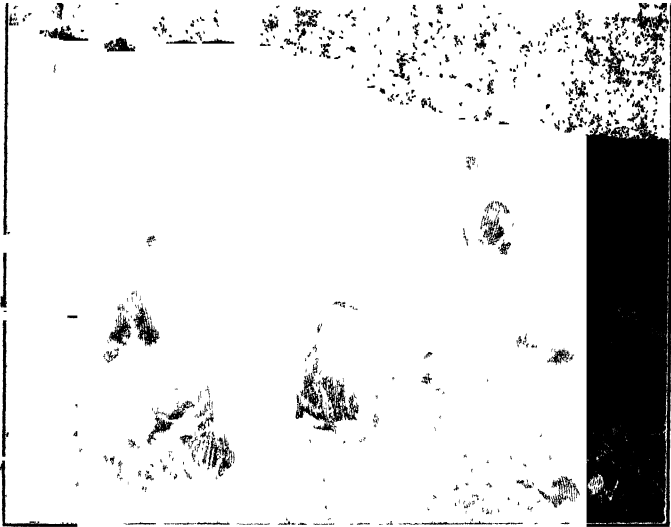


FIG. 30. Persian nomads

gentlemen callers or visitors, the women of the household are not present. The rooms for the women are built about an inner court, well secluded from the street. Few of the women can read and write. Some of them make pilgrimages to Mecca, being absent from home as much as a year.

You would think many of the customs of the Persians very strange, I am sure. Some of the people are very superstitious, and consult soothsayers before sending for a doctor or starting on a journey. Many think

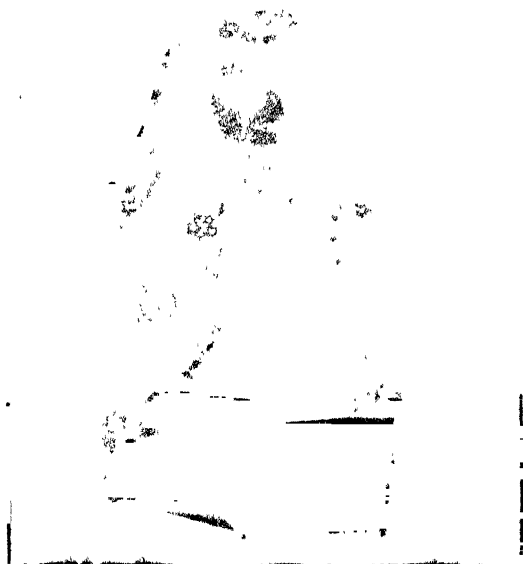


FIG. 31. A Persian Girl

that blue will guard them from harm, and therefore turquoise is highly prized.

A man's wife is generally selected for him by his mother. If, when the public announcement is made, the young man is not pleased with his mother's choice,

he may withdraw from the engagement by paying to the young lady a certain sum of money. A man does not speak to his wife should he meet her on the street.

Friday is the Mohammedan Sunday, and on that day all go to the public baths, and then to the mosque or church. They prostrate themselves toward Mecca, the priest leading in the devotions.

In the homes of the poorer people no tables are used. A large piece of leather is spread upon the ground, and upon this the food is placed. The people sit upon their heels and use their fingers in eating. Only the right hand is used. After eating they wash their hands in rose-water. A servant usually purchases the food, and keeps a commission amounting to about ten per cent. The noonday meal is followed by a sleep. The beds are padded quilts spread upon the floor at night, and put away during the day.

## PERSIA

“Persia ! time-honored land ! who looks on thee  
A desert, yet a Paradise, will see,  
Vast chains of hills where not a shrub appears,  
Wastes where no dews distill their diamond tears,  
The only living things foul birds of prey,  
Who whet their beaks or court the solar ray,  
And wolves that fill with howlings midnight’s vale,  
Turning the cheek of far-off traveler pale ; —  
Anon, the ravished eye delighted dwells  
On chinar groves and brightly watered dells ;

Blooming where man and art have nothing done,  
Pomegranates hang their rich fruit in the sun ;  
Grapes turn to purple many a rock's tall brow,  
And globes of gold adorn the citron's bough ;  
Mid rose trees hid, or perched on some high palm,  
The bulbul sings through eve's delicious calm ;  
While girt by plains, or washed by cooling streams,  
On some green flat the stately city gleams."

— NICHOLAS MICHELL.

## CHAPTER VI

### AFGHANISTAN

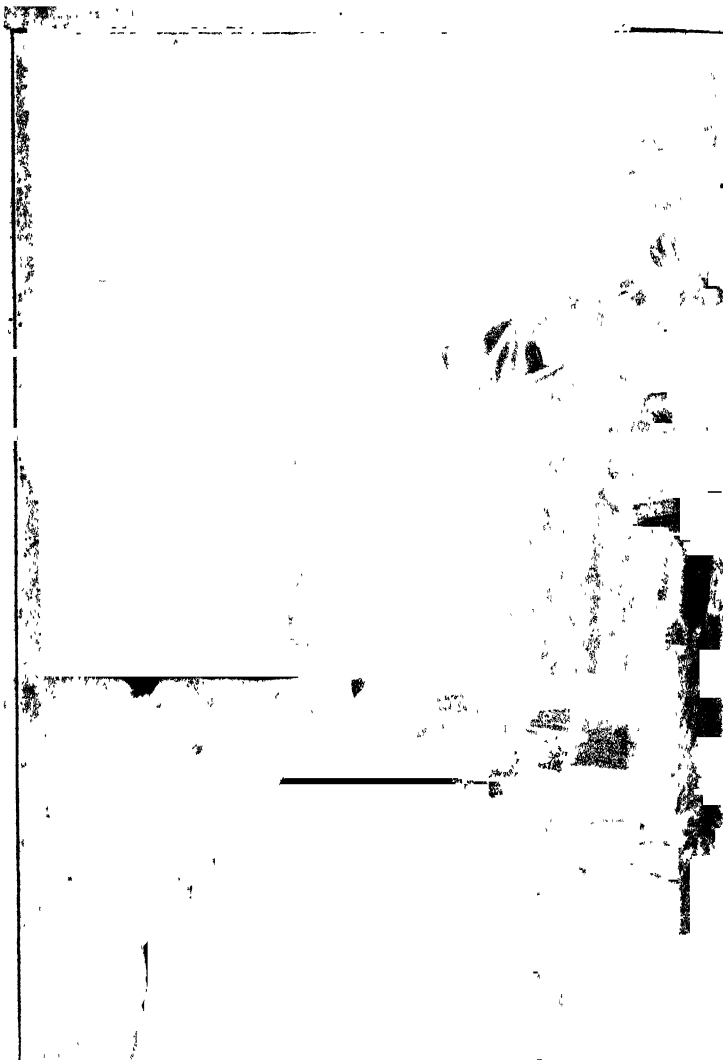
If you will examine a map of Asia, you will see that Persia, Russia, and India nearly surround the country called Afghanistan. Because of its position this country is a prize which the people of the surrounding countries have long wished to secure. While Afghanistan is recognized as being independent, she enjoys the protection of Great Britain. The ruler is known as the *ameer*.

Afghanistan is a land of lofty mountains and broad deserts. The country is, therefore, very inaccessible, and nearly all traveling is done on the backs of horses and camels. Most of the commerce is carried on by means of caravans, although there are a few wagon roads in the eastern part of the country, and a railroad connects the city of Kandahar with India. Although Afghanistan is twice as large as the British Isles, the population is less than that of London.

In the northeast are the Hindu Kush Mountains, the most lofty peaks of which are more than 20,000 feet in altitude, and are therefore snow-covered throughout the year. In the southwestern part there are deserts where violent sand storms often occur.



## ASIA



Some of the valleys are well irrigated and are wonderfully fertile. One of these is the valley of the Kabul River. On the north and south of the valley are high mountains. To the east is the Khaibar Pass, one of the most important gateways to India. Many caravans follow this route, and obtain supplies of food from the orchards and gardens in the valley. The very old city of Kabul, which is the capital of Afghanistan, situated upon the river of the same name, guards this entrance to the country. One of the railroads of India terminates within about sixty miles of the pass.

In the western part of, Afghanistan, on the Herirud River, is Herat, often called the "Gate of India," for by following the valley eastward and crossing the Hindu Kush, the valley of the Kabul and the Khaibar Pass are reached. Like Kabul, Herat is very old, and once contained a large population. For centuries armies have marched to and fro by way of Kabul and on this account it has been many times destroyed and rebuilt. In the fertile valley of the Herirud fruits and other crops are grown by irrigation.

Because of the differences in elevation in different parts of the country, Afghanistan has a variety of climates. In some of the most lofty valleys snow remains on the ground for several months each year, and the people are, therefore, shut up in their houses. On

## ASIA

the lower lands cotton, oranges, apricots, rice, and sugar cane thrive.

There is much mineral wealth in the country, but, because of the backwardness of the people, it is not extensively developed. For the same reason there is comparatively little manufacturing carried on. Some carpets, rugs, and shawls are made and exported, but most of the articles manufactured are made in the homes of the people, and are used at home. Other things exported are indigo, tobacco, fruits, horses, and furs.

## KABUL

"Oh, who Kabul's sweet region may behold,  
When spring laughs out, or autumn sows her gold,

\* \* \* \* \*

Flowers here, of every scent and form and dye,  
Lift their bright heads, and laugh upon the sky,  
From the tall tulip with her rich streaked bell,  
Where, throned in state, Queen Mab is proud to dwell,  
To lowly windflowers that gaudier plants eclipse,  
And pensile hairbells with their dewey lips.  
There turns the heliotrope to court the sun,  
And up green stalks the starry jasmines run."

— NICHOLAS MICHELL.

## CHAPTER VII

### INDIA

INDIA is the largest peninsula in the world. Its area is one half as great as that of Europe. The great state of Texas is less than one sixth as large as India. Unlike Arabia, India is densely populated, having three times as many inhabitants as are found in the United States.

Lofty mountains separate India from the surrounding countries of Asia. For more than 1000 miles the snow-crowned Himalayas, the highest mountains on the globe, extend between India and Tibet. The central range contains the highest peaks, many of which are more than 25,000 feet in altitude, while Mt. Everest rises 29,000 feet above the sea. No one has ever reached the summit of this peak, which is believed to be the highest point on the earth's surface. Even the passes are so high that most of them are permanently occupied by snow fields or glaciers. Because of this there are neither railroads nor wagon roads between India and China. Commerce by land between the two countries is therefore very limited.

North and west of the Himalayas there are other

great mountain systems, which radiate from the Pamir or "Roof of the World." By these, India is still further separated from the Chinese Empire, and also from Russia, Afghanistan, and Persia. The Vale of Cashmere is a beautiful mountain valley, surrounded by snow-covered mountains. It is so sheltered that it has a delightful climate. Grains, fruits, and silk are produced here.

South of the mountains a great, low plain stretches east and west across India. This plain is drained by the Brahmaputra, the Ganges, and the Indus rivers. In fact, it has been largely built up by the sediment deposited by these streams. It is said that there is scarcely a stone upon the surface of this plain from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea. In the eastern part the soil is so fertile and so well watered that the population is very dense. Many streams flow across the delta of the Ganges, and canals extend from these in all directions. These canals serve to irrigate the rice fields. During the rainy season the common means of traveling from village to village is by boat. The plain of the Indus receives very little rain, and is not densely populated.

That portion of India south of the plain is a plateau known as the *Dekkan*. It is bordered by mountain ranges, — on the west the Western Ghats, on the east the Eastern Ghats, and on the north the Nilgiri Moun-



*Photo by Howell*

**Fig. 33. Bullock cart in India**

## ASIA

tains. The Western Ghats are very much higher than the eastern mountains. Being surrounded by mountains the plateau receives only a moderate amount of rain. In some portions irrigation has been practiced



FIG. 34. Riding an elephant in India *Photo by Mayne*

for ages. On the seaward slopes, especially on the west, rainfall is abundant.

The climate on the lofty Himalaya Mountains is always like that of the polar regions, while on the low plains cold weather never occurs. The southern point of India is within a few degrees of the equator, and therefore much of the country has a tropical climate.

During the summer, India and other portions of southern Asia are so much warmer than the sea that the wind blows steadily from the water for several months. This wind is known as the *monsoon*, and is of the greatest importance. As the warm, moisture-laden atmosphere comes in contact with the cold mountain tops, the moisture is condensed, and rain falls.

Without the rain which the summer or the *wet* monsoon supplies to India, the crops in large areas would fail, and there would be famine in the land. In fact, when there is a year during which the rainfall is much less than the average, there is great suffering. The beginning of the rainy season, which is known as the "bursting of the monsoon," is eagerly watched for by the people. This takes place about the last of May on the southwestern coast, and a month later in northern India.

On the west slope of the Western Ghats Mountains the yearly rainfall averages one hundred inches or more, while on the plateau it is from twenty to thirty inches. As the Himalaya Mountains are so much higher than the Ghats, the rainfall on their southern slope is very great. In the northeastern part of India it amounts to four hundred inches or more annually. This is ten times as much rain as falls in the central and eastern parts of the United States in the same time.





*Photo by Horell*

FIG. 35. A typical well in India

It is difficult to endure a high temperature when the air is very moist. On this account many of the Europeans in India leave the plain of the Ganges during the hot season, and go to the hills. Practically no work is done at this season except during the early morning. Very soon after sunrise it becomes so hot that doors and windows are closed, and people shut themselves up in their houses.

During the winter months the wind blows from the land to the sea, because at that season the water is warmer than the land. This movement is known as the *dry* monsoon. The winter monsoon brings some rain to the region east of the Eastern Ghats, and to the island of Ceylon, but very little to other sections. As you have learned, a part of the plain of the Indus is very dry. Lying west of the river is the Indian Desert, an *area* about four hundred miles long, and half as wide.

Except on the mountain slopes, where rainfall is abundant, India has no extensive forests. Bamboo is very widely distributed, however, and is useful in many ways. India is an important wheat-growing country, and a considerable quantity is exported from the basin of the Indus. In the northeast, where the land is marshy, rice is grown in great quantities. Other important crops are jute, cotton, tea, coffee, and tropical fruits.

Agriculture is the leading industry in India. About two-thirds of the total population is engaged in this



Photo by Howell

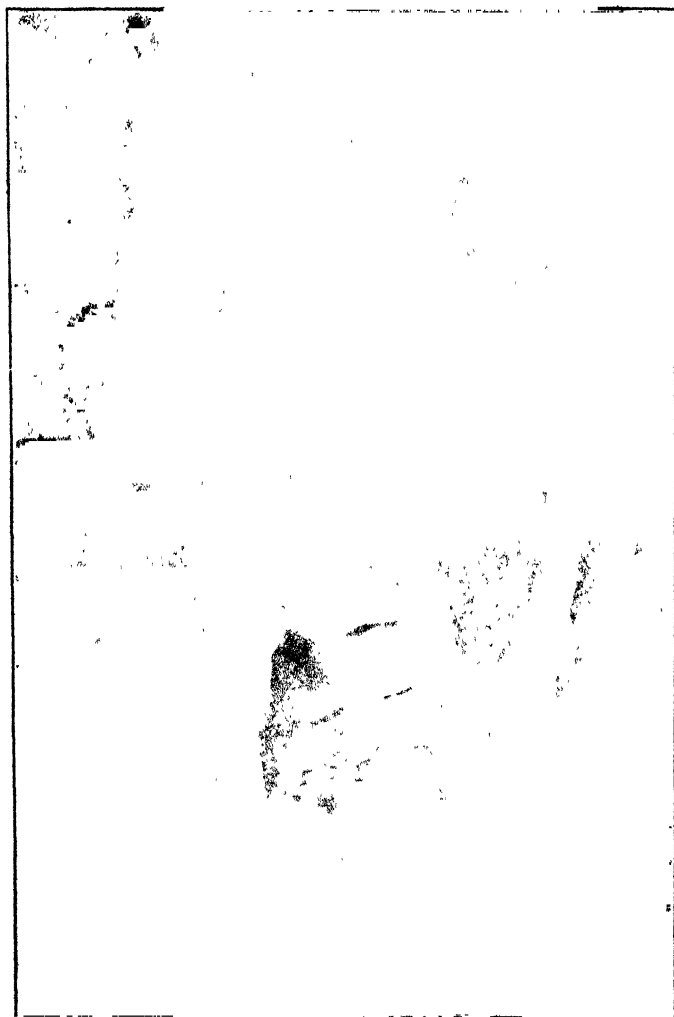
FIG. 36. Vegetable stall in Darjeeling

occupation. As the population is dense, and the people poor, little machinery is used in farm work. Wooden plows, sometimes with iron tips, are made by the village carpenters at a cost of one or two dollars each. Grain is quite commonly cut by means of sickles, and threshed by hand, or under the feet of animals. Women grind grain in hand mills as they did centuries ago. Ten cents per day is a fair price for farm labor. The farmers are called "ryots," and they live in villages instead of in isolated farmhouses.

The people of India depend upon irrigation to a very large extent. Irrigated crops are much more certain than are those where rainfall is depended upon. As the irrigation systems are more fully developed, famines become less frequent. As in our country, the government is carrying on the great projects. In the basin of the Indus are found the largest irrigation works in the world.

For ages India has produced gold and precious stones, but it is not to-day an important gold-producing country. A large part of the rubies of the world come from Burma, and jade also is produced here. This is a stone that the Chinese value very highly. India produces great quantities of manganese, a mineral similar to iron, and some petroleum and coal. Much of the coal is poor in quality.

India is not noted as a manufacturing country.



*Photo by Houcl*

**FIG. 37. Making bricks at Delhi**

Considerable hand work is done, the products being cashmere shawls, and articles made of leather, ivory, and metal. In the large cities machinery is used in manufacturing to some extent. Considerable cotton is manufactured at Bombay, and some cotton goods are exported. Jute is manufactured extensively in Calcutta.

Unlike most of the countries of Asia, India has many rail and wagon roads. These were constructed by the English, who own the country, chiefly in order to make it easier to defend the land. They are also of great value for purposes of trade and travel. For many centuries the rivers have been followed by the people of India, whether they were traveling or carrying on trade. The Ganges, or, as the natives call it, "Mother Ganges," is the most important river. It is navigable as far as Cawnpur. Bathing in the Ganges and drinking its waters are believed by the natives to be very beneficial. The Brahmaputra is navigable to Assam, and the Irrawadi to Mandalay. The Indus practically supports no commerce, as its channel is almost constantly shifting.

India has many large and ancient cities. A large number of different religions are practiced, and many different languages spoken. The dress of the people, as well as many of their customs, are quite different from ours. From another chapter you will learn more of the cities and the people of this interesting land.



*Photo by Howell*

**FIG. 38. Musicians in Jaipur**

## INDIA

‘Vast are the shores of India’s wealthful soil;  
Southward sea-girt she forms a demi-isle :

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

Two infant rivers pour the crystal tide,  
Indus the one, and one the Ganges named,

\*       \*       \*       \*       \*       \*

Between these streams, fair smiling to the day,  
The Indian lands their wide domains display,  
And many a league far to the south they bend  
From the broad region where the rivers end,  
Till where the shores to Ceylon’s isle oppose  
In conic form, the Indian regions close.”

— LUIS DE CAMOENS.



## CHAPTER VIII

### SOME INDIAN CITIES

INDIA is one of the ancient lands of the world, and yet its history is not very important. While its people number about three hundred million, they are not, as a rule, enterprising. The character of the climate is largely responsible for this, for in a hot moist climate people have little ambition. The English who live in India find it hard to endure the summer climate on the lowlands, and if possible they spend the hottest months in the hills, where it is cooler.

The natives of India vary considerably in complexion, some being very dark, and others lighter. Although there are many highly educated Indians, the majority are ignorant, superstitious, and poor. There are millions of people who think it wrong to kill animals. As one result of this belief, these people do not eat meat. A much more serious result is the fact that tigers and poisonous snakes cause a great loss of life yearly because they are not hunted down and killed as they would be in other parts of the world.

Great numbers of the natives live in miserable huts with floors of earth and thatched roofs. These huts

contain practically no furniture or conveniences of any kind. The poor people dress in cheap cotton goods, often white because of the heat, and the men wear several yards of cloth twisted around the head. This headdress is called a *turban*.



FIG. 39. A house in India

*Photo by Richardson*

There are hundreds of different classes of society, known as *castes*. Usually the people of one caste will have nothing to do with those of another. A man must live among those of his own caste; he must follow the trade that his father followed; he must not eat anything that has been handled by a person of another

## ASIA

caste, and he may not marry a woman outside of his own caste. This, of course, hinders progress greatly.

There are many large cities in India, but few of them are important industrial or commercial centers. While they are in some ways interesting, there are many very unpleasant things about them. We see many evidences of unsanitary conditions, of poverty, and of misery. Even in the best hotels the accommodations are sometimes very unsatisfactory. Travelers quite commonly carry their own bedding.

Calcutta, the largest of the Indian cities, is situated upon the delta of the Indus, about seventy-five miles from the sea. It is on a distributary of the Ganges known as the Hoogly River. This city draws upon the vast fertile plains of the Ganges, and, as there is no city between Calcutta and the mouth of the river, it has considerable commerce, and is a great center of population.

On the marsh lands in the vicinity, great quantities of rice are raised, and this is an important article of food. As there is coal not far away some manufacturing is carried on. During the hottest part of the day little business is done, and comparatively few people are seen upon the streets.

As Calcutta is the capital of India, this adds to its importance. Many English are found in the city, especially during the winter, because then the climate

is cooler and better suited to Europeans than it is in the summer.

As you might expect, there are many cities situated on the Ganges. Benares, one of these, is a very ancient and a very holy city. Both the Hindus and the Bud-

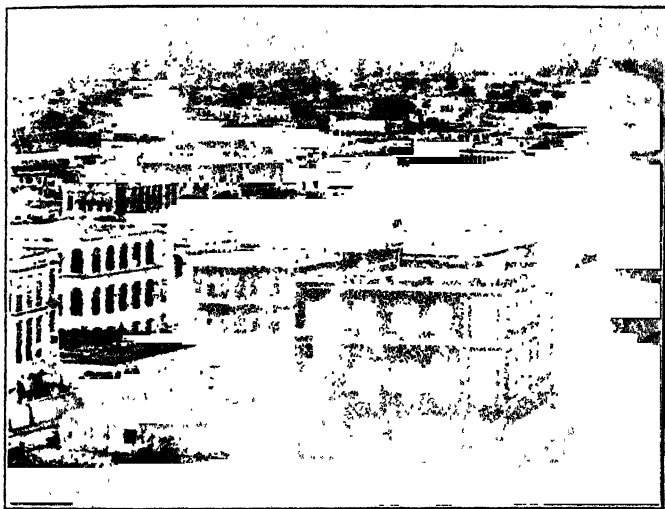
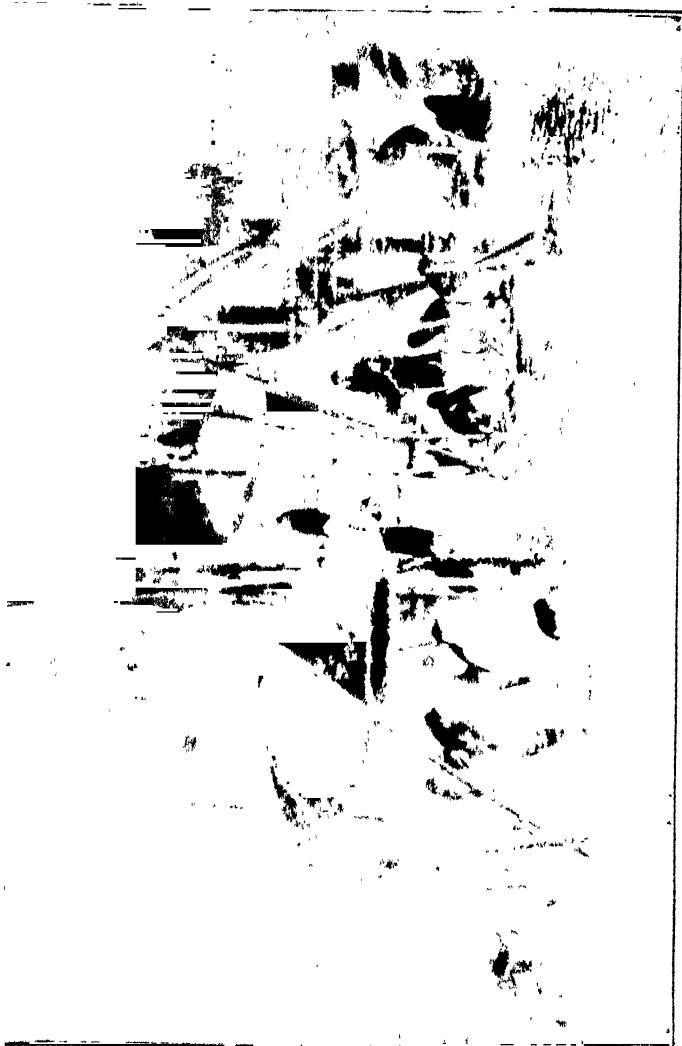


FIG. 40. Calcutta *Copyrighted by Brown Bros.*

dhists regard the city as sacred. It is the river, however, that makes Benares holy. Even the sight of the waters of this stream is believed to take away sin. People travel on foot for hundreds of miles to bathe in the river, to drink its waters, or simply to die upon its banks.

For a distance of three miles along the water front there is an almost unbroken succession of flights of



*Photo by Howell*

FIG 41 Hindus at their devotions in Benares

stone steps leading down to the river. From morning until night thousands of people may be seen going up and down these steps, bathing in the stream, or carrying water away in jars.

The streets are narrow and winding. In addition to the crowds of people there are many camels, horses, sacred cows, and even monkeys moving to and fro. As Benares depends almost entirely upon those who visit it for religious purposes, very little manufacturing is carried on. Instead of factories, mills, and business houses, we see an unusually large number of temples, pagodas, and shrines.

A little farther up the river is Allahabad, which means the "City of God." It is located where the Jumna flows into the Ganges. The city has its native and its English quarters, as most cities in the Orient have. Just above Allahabad the Jumna is spanned by a great bridge.

In the city of Agra, on the Jumna River, there is a building that it is worth a trip to India to see. It is probably the most beautiful building in the world, and yet it is a tomb. This wonderful building, known as the Taj Mahal, was built by the emperor Shah Jehan for his wife. Before it was completed she died, and so it became her burial place. It is said that twenty thousand workmen were employed continuously for twenty-one years in erecting the Taj. Although

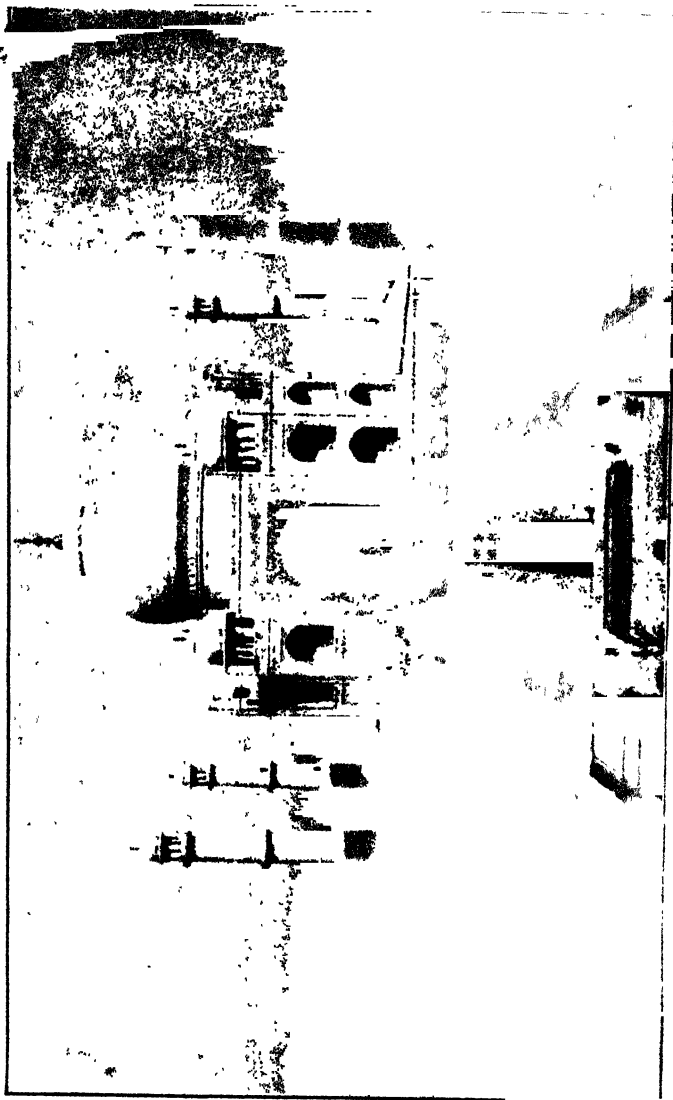


FIG. 42. Tai Mahal

it is more than two hundred and fifty years since this beautiful structure was completed, it is still the admiration of all who see it.

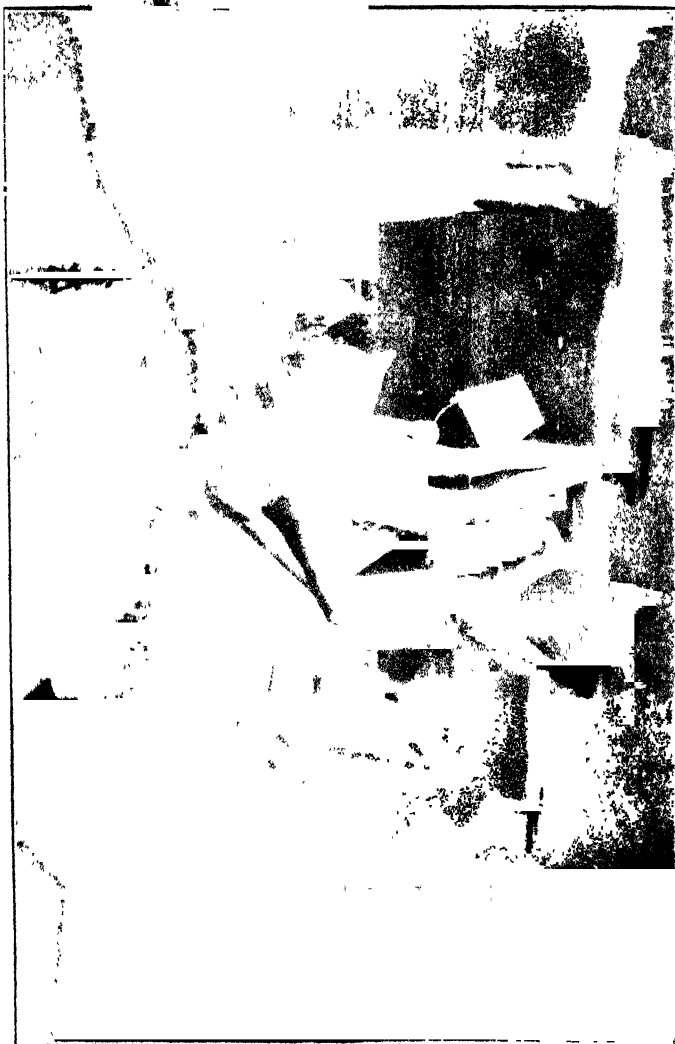
The Taj stands beside the river, and is set in a beautiful park of about forty acres. From the gate in the wall that surrounds the park, a broad paved walk leads to the entrance of the building. On either side of the walk are rows of cypress trees, and close to the walk on one side is a canal in which there are numerous fountains. In the park, orange and palm trees, rose bushes, and many other beautiful plants are found.

The building, which is constructed of white marble, is surmounted by a central dome seventy feet in diameter. About this are four smaller domes, while at each corner of the great platform upon which the building stands, rises a lofty column known as a minaret. The inside of this wonderful building is decorated with carnelian, agate, lapis lazuli, and jewels. These are arranged in the form of wreaths and scrolls. In the pure white marble thousands of beautiful flowers have been cut in relief. It is no wonder that the Taj Mahal has been called a "poem in stone."

#### THE TAJ MAHAL

"With minarets of marble rising stately from a sea  
Of the dark-leaved mango's foliage streaked by the jaman  
tree,  
Up to the empyrean where the crescent glitters bright,





*Photo by Houell*

**FIG. 43. A water carrier in Bombay**

Calm and unchanged, still shining through the fall of Moslem  
might,

One majesty of whiteness the Taj of Agra stands,  
Like no work of human builder, but a care of angel hands.

\* \* \* \* \*

Majestic shrine of other days, to thee the power belongs  
To resist the flight of ages and to awe the stranger throngs;  
Long as the sacred Jumna o'er its bed of sand shall flow  
Thy glorious dome to heaven shall raise its massive breast of  
snow,

For the spirit of the monarch and the builder's art combine  
To guard from lightning's levin-bolt, and time's decay, the  
shrine."

— ANONYMOUS.

India's best harbor is on her west coast. Here on the island of Bombay, about ten miles in length, we find the city of the same name. This island, and others near by, were once in the possession of the Portuguese, but in 1661 King John IV of Portugal gave the island of Bombay to his daughter Catherine. As she became the wife of Charles II of England, it passed into the hands of the English.

A causeway upon which there is a railroad connects the island of Bombay with the island of Salsetti north of it, and this island is connected with the mainland in a similar manner.

During our Civil War the cotton industry in the United States received a serious blow. This encouraged the production of cotton in India, and for several years

it was exported from Bombay in large quantities. When peace was once more restored in the United States, Bombay lost her importance in this line. She still ships some cotton to Manchester, England, and she has cotton mills where some of the raw cotton is manufactured. Wheat also is exported.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 increased the commerce of Bombay. Can you see why? Bombay has railroad connections with Madras, and also with Calcutta and with the great valley of the Ganges. Bombay is the second largest city in India, having a population of more than seven hundred thousand. India has at least eight cities, each one of which has a population of more than two hundred thousand persons. This shows you that a large part of the total population of India lives in cities.

## CHAPTER IX

### CEYLON

INDIA projects southward into the Indian Ocean. The island of Ceylon is just to the south and east of the lower point of this great peninsula. Ceylon is separated from the mainland by Palk Strait and the Gulf of Manaar. Although the island appears to be entirely cut off from India proper, there is a coral reef known as *Adam's Bridge* that really connects the two. Ceylon is more than two hundred and sixty-five miles long and half as wide. Its area is twenty-five thousand square miles.

In the south of Ceylon the country is quite mountainous. There are several mountain peaks, the highest, Piduru Talagala, or Pedrotalagalla, being over eight thousand feet in altitude. As you go north the country becomes lower, and a wide plain extends nearly across the island. Here is found a jungle that is wild and overgrown with tropical trees, shrubs, and running vines. Moss covers the trees, and in the swamps there is much vegetation. It is almost impossible to enter this jungle, and here beasts and reptiles have their home.

In the valleys and on the plain, where the rainfall is

## ASIA

abundant, the soil is fertile and the vegetation very luxuriant. Along the coast, the graceful cocoa palms are found, and other kinds of palms grow in profusion. There are tree ferns much taller than a person, and great rubber and banyan trees. One of the pecul-



*Photo by Richardson*

FIG. 44. Elephants moving logs in Ceylon

iar trees bears a sausage-shaped fruit, and is therefore called the sausage tree. The fruit is not eaten, however. Another tree has a long, slender fruit resembling a candle, and this tree is called the candle tree. It is interesting to know that the fruit contains an oil that is actually used in lamps. From the bark of a tree

known as the chinchona tree quinine is made. The chinchona bark is exported in great quantities because, although quinine is largely used as a medicine in colder regions, the tree grows in tropical countries only.

Some coffee is produced in Ceylon, but the island is especially noted for its tea. There are many large plantations of tea, and there are only two other countries in the world that produce more tea than Ceylon. What are they? During the tea-picking season many of the inhabitants of India find employment on the tea plantations of Ceylon. They are paid from ten to sixteen cents per day. Why are wages so low?

A land entirely surrounded by water is likely to have a temperate climate, even though in a tropical region. Why? There are two *monsoons* that blow every year in Ceylon. These winds blow steadily for weeks at a time. From February until May these winds do not blow. This period between the two monsoons is the hottest time of the year in Ceylon. About ninety inches, or seven and one half feet, of rain falls each year in certain sections of the island. In the hilly country the climate is very pleasant from December until May.

Many kinds of wild animals are found in Ceylon. The elephant, bear, monkey, panther, several varieties of small deer, and the peacock live here. There are several tribes of wild people in the mountains. Much of the interior of the country is little known.

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Mining is an important industry. Every year many thousands of tons of minerals are exported. There are mines of gold and iron, and plumbago or graphite is mined in large quantities. For what is graphite used? Many precious stones come from Ceylon. Rubies and sapphires are found there in great abundance.

Ceylon is sometimes called the "Pearl Garden," on account of the large number of magnificent pearls found there. In the shallow waters along the shore of the Gulf of Manaar pearl fishing is carried on very extensively. The fishing grounds are called "paars." They are about two miles from shore, and are under from thirty to fifty feet of water. The pearl oysters are not oysters at all, although they somewhat resemble oysters. They are devoured in great numbers by fish, and therefore during some years pearl fishing is a great success, and during others it is a failure.

The fishing season lasts from March until the last of April. This period, as you have learned, is between the monsoons. What advantage is there in that? The fishery is under the control of the government. The pearl banks are carefully examined before the season opens, and the catch for the season is estimated. The grounds are leased, and the date on which the season is to open is published.

From thirty thousand to fifty thousand people engage in this work, and there is much excitement. The value



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FIG. 45. The return of the pearl fishers

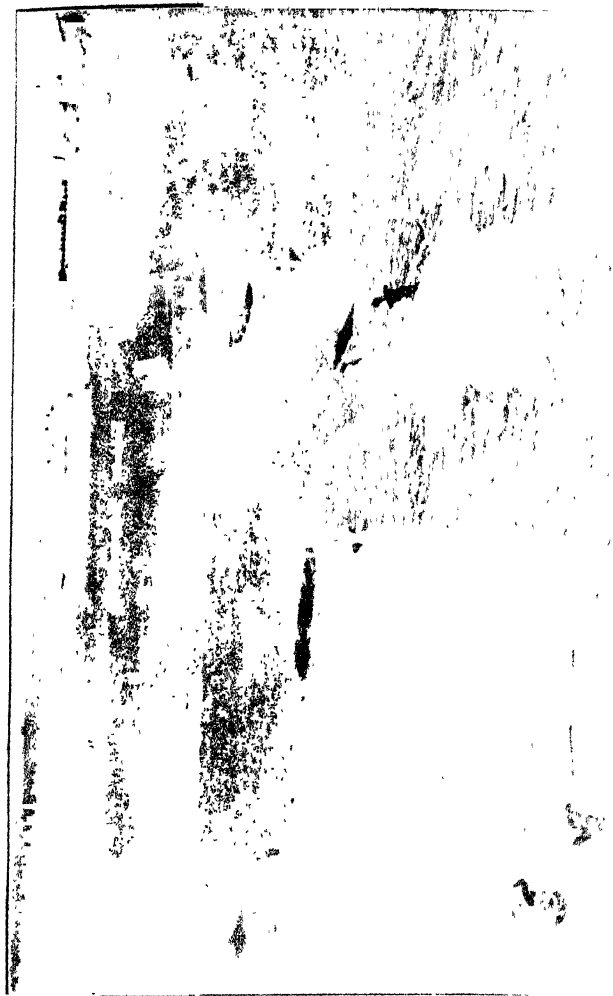


of a single pearl may be great enough to make a man rich, but of course such pearls are not very numerous. In the early morning the boats containing the divers and their helpers go to the fishing banks.

The divers, who are in most cases Arabs, are lowered to the bottom by means of ropes. In order that the diver may reach the bottom as quickly as possible, a flat stone having a hole in it is attached to one end of the rope. The diver grasps the rope, places his feet upon this stone, and rapidly sinks out of sight.

You may be sure that he cannot remain under water long at a time, for he does not use a diving bell. His nostrils are kept closed by means of a clothespin-like stick that he fastens across his nose. He must work rapidly, for within one and one half minutes after he enters the water he will have to be drawn up to the boat. The diver signals his helper by jerking the rope. After resting for five or six minutes, the diver is ready to go down again.

These men receive no money for their work. Instead, they are given one third of the catch. As soon as the shells have been divided, people crowd about the divers, anxious to buy their share. No one can tell how many pearls are in a quantity of shells, nor what their value may be until after each shell has been examined. In some cases this is done by opening the shells upon the spot, but the companies allow the great



*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 46. Boats on the bay at Colombo

mass of shells to become softened through the decay of the animals within them. They are then very carefully sorted under water. The workmen are closely watched so as to prevent them from taking any of the pearls.

Pearl fishing is a very ancient industry. It was carried on in Ceylon before the birth of Christ. Many of the superstitious fishermen believe that the pearls are caused by raindrops falling into the shells when they are open, and in ancient times some people believed that pearls were tears. Scientists believe that pearls are the result of the work of parasites within the shells.

The capital of Ceylon is Colombo, situated on the west coast. There are many interesting sights in the harbor as well as upon shore. Natives in curiously shaped canoes come out to meet each ship, hoping to sell something to tourists. Arab boys are eager to dive for small coins, which passengers often throw overboard for them. We may ride about the city in jinrikishas just as people do in Japan. In the streets we see large carts with thatched tops, drawn by white bullocks.

Long, long ago there was an ancient civilization in Ceylon. Just as in Italy where there are ancient cities and famous roads, so in Ceylon there are vast reservoirs where the early people stored water. The people who lived here understood irrigation, and these reservoirs

were built in the regions where the rainfall was light. To-day these vast storage tanks are still used, as there are no large lakes.

In Ceylon there are nearly four million people. These are mostly natives. The Portuguese came to the island in 1505 and soon began to trade. After about one hundred and fifty years the Dutch drove out the Portuguese. For two hundred years England has controlled Ceylon, and the island has an English governor. In religion the natives are Buddhists, Brahmans, and Mohammedans.

## CHAPTER X

### SIAM

SIAM, in the extreme southeastern part of Asia, forms a part of the peninsula of Indo China. It would take five states the size of New York to equal in area the kingdom of Siam. The population of Siam is about one tenth that of the United States.

As the country extends from about the tenth to the twentieth parallels of north latitude, the climate is very warm, especially in the lowlands. The temperature does not vary greatly between summer and winter, averaging about 80° F. The rainfall is very abundant, amounting to fifty inches or more per year. During the summer the monsoon blows from the ocean toward Siam, because southern Asia is then much warmer than the waters of the ocean. As these moisture-laden winds strike the mountains rain occurs. The most of the rain therefore falls between May and October.

Naturally we find tropical vegetation here. Upon the lowlands the palm, bamboo, banyan, rubber, and other trees grow. Among the cultivated plants are cotton, sugar cane, coffee, rice, tobacco, and bananas.

Rice is the chief crop of the country, and it is also, the chief export. It is grown extensively on the marshy lands of the delta of the Menam. There are many irrigation canals by means of which the water is carried to the rice fields. The rice is sown in gardens, and when



*Copyrighted by Brown Bros*

FIG 47. A home in Siam

the plants are about a foot high they are transplanted to the fields. Think how very slow and tedious this work must be! Instead of being cut by machinery, the rice is cut by means of sickles, if the fields are dry enough. Sometimes during the harvesting season the

fields are covered with water. How do you suppose the grain is harvested then? Men move back and forth over the fields in boats and cut off the heads of the rice with their sickles.

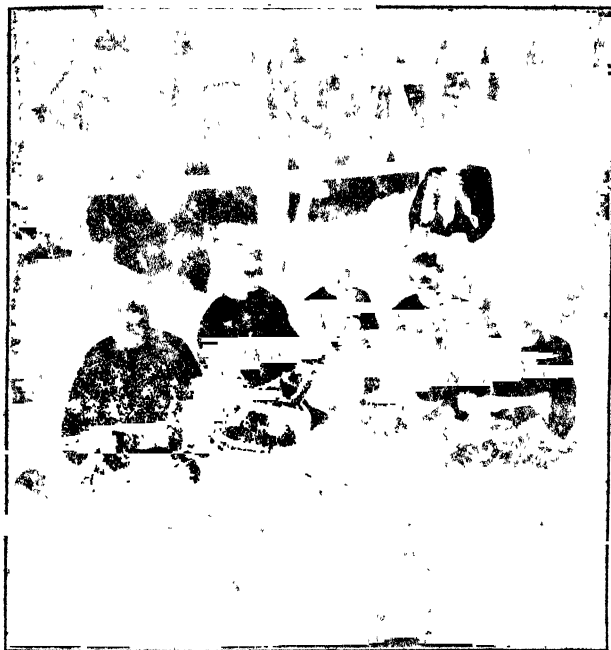
You see from this that agriculture is carried on in a very primitive fashion. Often the plows are nothing but crooked sticks, having only one handle. Attached to the plow one will see an ox or a water buffalo instead of a horse. The plowman guides the animal by means of a rope fastened to its nose.

In the forests much teak timber grows. This wood is used in ship building. It is cut during the wet season, for then the trees are not broken by falling. As the logs are so heavy, and the mud is so deep, elephants are employed to handle them. These animals are trained so that they are very intelligent. They pile up logs and timbers almost as readily as men could do it.

Many wild elephants are found in the forests, and there is occasionally a white one. Indeed, the flag of Siam is a white elephant on a red field. The tiger, panther, rhinoceros, wild boar, water buffalo, musk deer, wolf, and crocodile are other animals that roam the forests.

As you have learned, rice is grown on the lowlands because it requires so much water. As this is the staple crop, the people live where its cultivation is most successful. In many cases the people live in houses built

upon great rafts made of bundles of bamboo. Some villages are made up almost entirely of these floating houses, even the stores or shops being of the same character. Other villages are built on piles raising the



*Copyrighted by Brown Bros*

FIG. 48. Wrapping tobacco in Siam

buildings above the water. The buffalo or pony, as the case may be, is apt to be sheltered under the house.

The people of hot countries do not eat much meat.



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The chief foods of the people of Siam are rice, fish, and fruits. Generally but two meals a day are eaten, one before the heat becomes very intense, and the other as soon as the greatest heat of the day is over. Between ten in the morning and three in the afternoon very little work is done. You see how greatly the development of a people depends upon the nature of the climate of their country.

As the people live on the banks of streams and canals so commonly, of course a great deal of traveling is done by boat. In fact, boat racing is one of the sports of the people. Practically all children, as well as grown people, know how to swim, and in such a warm country swimming is much enjoyed. Among the boys there is much flying of kites, while the girls play with dolls. Perhaps girls in our country would not admire the dolls used by the girls of Siam, for they are generally made of mud.

Bangkok, the capital of Siam, is situated about thirty miles from the mouth of the Menam, the largest river in the country. The latitude of the city is about fifteen degrees north of the equator, and as it is close to sea level, it is always hot. On all sides of Bangkok are rice fields, and rice is the chief export of the city.

There are many canals in Bangkok, and formerly these furnished practically the only means of communication. There are now many miles of macadamized

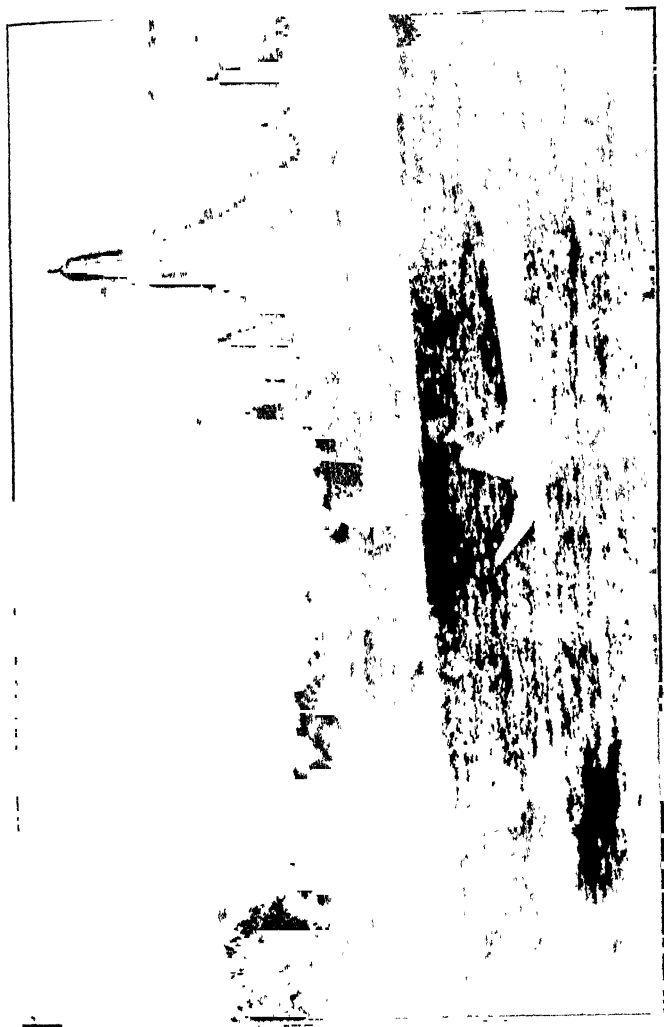


Fig. 49. A view in Bangkok

## ASIA

streets in the capital, and automobiles are becoming common. The king has several. The population of the city is about eight hundred thousand; so, you see, it is an important place. In some ways it is quite like a city in our own country, for it has electric cars, telephones, hotels, and libraries.

## CHAPTER XI

### FRENCH INDO CHINA

If you will look on your map, you will find the peninsula of Siam just east of the club-shaped Malay Peninsula. The southern portion of the peninsula of Siam is divided into several small countries, among them Cochin China, Tonking, Annam, Cambodia, and Laos. Lower Cochin China, or French Indo China, is a small country at the lower end of the peninsula, and projects into the South China Sea. The Gulf of Siam is on the east. Between this country and Siam is the Mekong River.

The French people have control over all of this territory. There are only a few hundred Europeans in the entire country, and practically no Americans live there. The climate is unhealthful along the coast, as the land is low and swampy. Inland from the coast there are low mountains and a fertile plain, and at the north the mountains reach a height of three thousand feet.

The Mekong River broadens out in the form of a delta before it empties into the South China Sea. The land bordering on this delta is very fertile. Farther north an arm of the Mekong widens out in a lake called Bien-

Boa, or "Great Lake." This lake receives much water from the Mekong when the river is high. When the river is low, water flows from the lake back into the river.

The land along the coast is much like that along the Atlantic in some parts of our southern states. The marshes are covered with cane. There are also vast forests or jungles, and here many wild beasts make their home. The tiger, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, wild cattle, snakes, and reptiles are found in great numbers. The buffalo is a domestic animal in French Indo China, and labors as patiently as does the horse in our country or the elephant in parts of India.

In the rich valley of the Mekong and in the fertile plain lying back from the coast rich crops are raised. The chief food of the people is rice, as in China, and large quantities of rice are exported. Sugar cane, cotton, tobacco, tea, coffee, beans, maize, peanuts, coconuts, pepper, indigo, mulberries, bananas, and cinnamonbark are produced in great quantities. The mulberry tree is grown, and the finest silk fabrics are made. Other exports are dried fish, isinglass, ivory, rhinoceros and buffalo horns, and buffalo hides.

There is a rainy season, which is the summer season of the country farther to the north. Twice as much rain falls every year as in our states bordering on the Atlantic Ocean. The people are chiefly natives, but

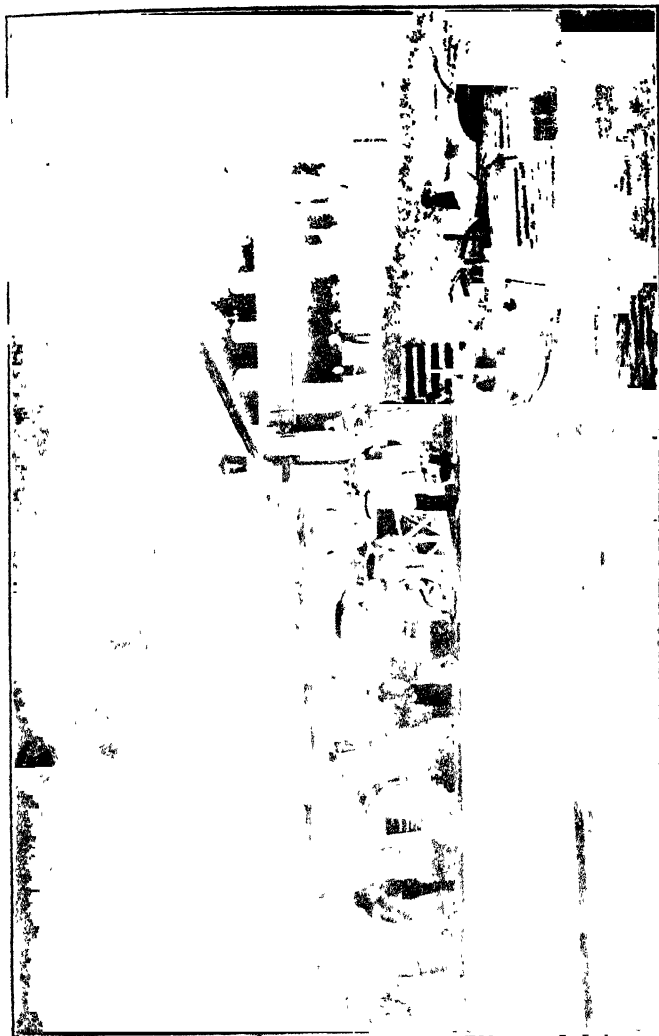


FIG. 50. View in Saigon

Copyrighted by Brown Bros.

there are also large numbers of Chinese. The children of French Indo China are taught in the schools by native teachers. The schools are, however, managed by the French. The people are very superstitious and have many gods to whom they offer sacrifices in their temples. In some parts of the country there are

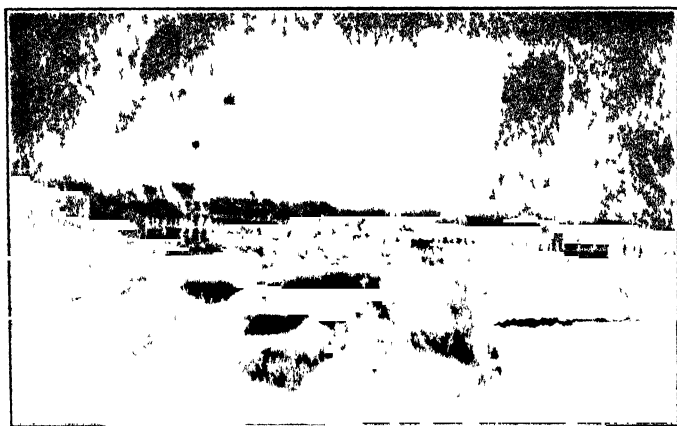


FIG. 51 River at Singapore

*Photo by Hoag*

wonderful ruins of buried cities, temples, and palaces, showing that people have lived here for many hundreds of years.

Most of the people still believe in the religion called Buddhism, and worship Buddha. Do you not think it strange that these people are under French rule and that most of the trade of the country is in the hands of the Chinese?

## CHAPTER XII

### THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

IN studying Europe you were surprised to learn how old some of the castles, churches, and other buildings

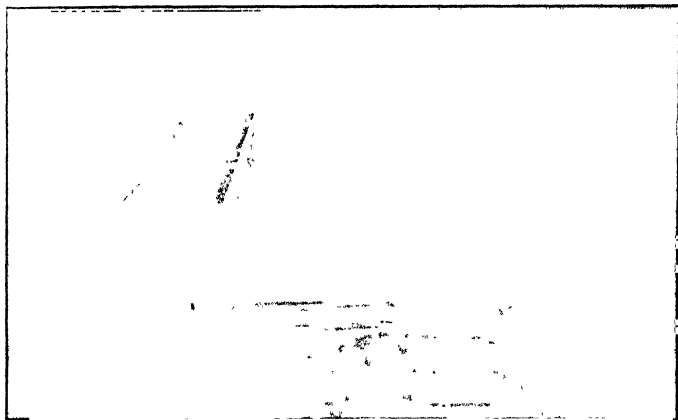


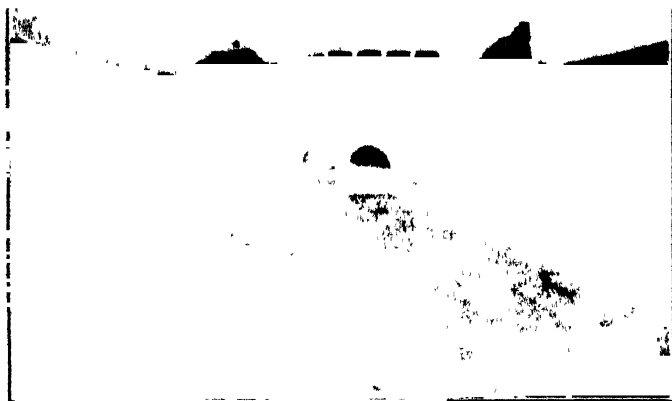
FIG. 52. Section of Great Wall of China *Photo by Hoag*

are. China was old when civilization in Europe began. Customs that were established many centuries ago have remained practically unchanged. In China one does not find great castles such as are perched upon the hill-tops along the Rhine, for the Chinese are not a race of warriors. Nowhere else do we find, however, such a



record of the physical labor of man as is the Great Wall.

Wishing to keep the Mongols of the north out of their country, the Chinese constructed the greatest wall on earth. It is nearly fifteen hundred miles in length, and extends over mountains and across valleys. The work was commenced about two hundred years before



*Photo by Hoag*

FIG. 53. A gateway through the Great Wall

the birth of Christ, and although hundreds of thousands of workmen were employed, ten years were required to build the wall. It is said that an army guarded the men while they worked.

The wall is from twenty-five to thirty feet high, and is nearly as thick. At intervals of a few hundred feet towers rise from it, while stairways lead down to the

Chinese side. The outer part is of brick, but the interior is composed of stones and dirt packed solidly. Here and there a gate leads through the wall.

#### THE WALL OF CHINA

"There standeth a building which ages have tried.  
It is not a dwelling, it is not a fane ;  
A hundred days round it the rider may ride,  
And ride, if to compass its measure, in vain.  
And years told in hundreds against it have striven,  
By time never sapped, and by storm never bowed,  
Still sublimely it stands in the rainbow of heaven,  
Reaching now to the ocean and now to the cloud.  
Not constructed a boast to vainglory to yield,  
It serves as defender, to save and to shield ;  
And nowhere its like on the earth is surveyed ;  
And yet by the labors of man it was made."

— FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER.

The Chinese republic is larger than the United States, and there are more people in this one country than there are in all Europe. In the northern and western parts there are deserts, lofty plateaus, and still more lofty mountains. These parts of the country are sparsely populated and are not well known.

Much of the plateau of Tibet is as high as the summit of Mt. Whitney in California, or Mt. Blanc in the Alps. On the north are the Kuen-Lun Mountains, and on the south the Himalayas. It is therefore very difficult to reach Tibet from the outside world. Partly on this

account, and partly because the natives do not wish foreigners to enter, portions of Tibet are yet unknown.

In the southern part of Tibet is Lassa, a sacred city, which no white man had seen before the year 1904. The city was built many hundred years ago. It is situated on the slope of a mountain and is surrounded by fine gardens. A broad street, used for processions, extends around the city. In the center of Lassa is a great Buddhist temple.

Some of the people of Tibet are nomadic; that is, they move from place to place in search of good pasture for their flocks and herds. These people live in tents made of the skin of the yak. Tea, in the form of bricks, is commonly used as money.

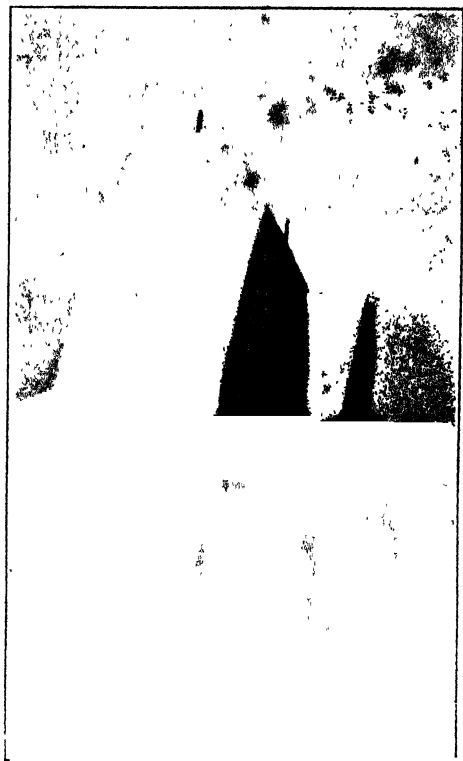
We can tell to what class a man in Tibet belongs by the color of his garments. White is the color worn by the common people. The wealthy dress in red. The officials dress in yellow, while blue is worn by the soldiers.

China proper, or, as it is sometimes called, "The Middle Kingdom," is the eastern part of the country. Much of it is a level, fertile plain. Here all of the large cities of China are located, and the country is very densely populated.

Two great rivers drain the broad plain of China — the Hoangho and the Yangtse. *Hoang* means yellow, and *ho*

is a Chinese word for river. There is a great deal of yellow clay in the basin, and this has given the name to the river and to the sea into which it once flowed.

Like the Mississippi, the Hoangho is subject to floods. The river has several times changed its channel, washing away fertile farms and the homes of the people. So much damage has been done by this river that it is often called the "Sorrow of China." Because of the great



*Photo by Hoag*

FIG. 54. Cargo junks on Yangtse River

amount of sediment deposited in the channel from time to time, the Hoangho is not very navigable, and the bed of the stream is higher than the land on either side.



*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 55. Sawing timbers in Hong Kong

The Yangtse, which is the great river of China, flows through a populous section in its middle and lower courses. On its banks are many large cities. The river is navigable for about two thousand miles, and large numbers of steamships pass up to the city of Hankow.

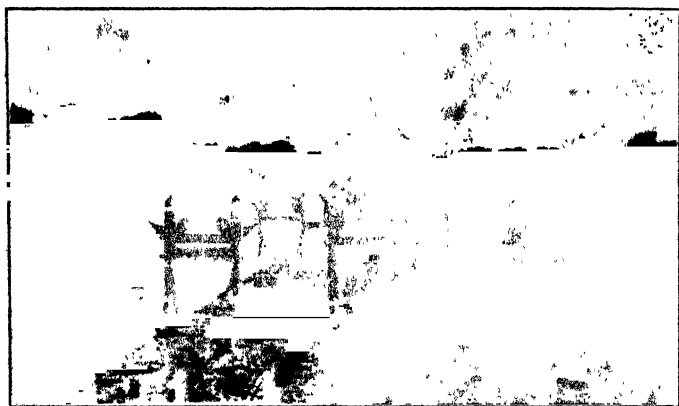
Between the Hoangho and the Yangtse rivers are the Peling Mountains. To the north of these mountains the climate is cooler and drier than it is to the south, and therefore the products differ. This led to trade between the two districts many centuries ago.

There is little mining and little manufacturing in China. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture. The farms are so small that in our country they would be called gardens. As the population is so dense, steep hillsides are terraced and cultivated. In some cases soil from the valleys is carried up for this purpose.

Much of the work is done by hand. Grain is commonly pulled by hand, or cut by means of sickles. Threshing is often done on the ground, as it is in the Holy Land. Agriculture is regarded as the most honorable of occupations. The ruler has always shown his respect for agriculture by plowing a furrow at the beginning of each season, while in Peking there is a building called the Temple of Agriculture.

China extends as far south as the southern end of Cuba, and as far north as the northern end of New-

foundland. There are therefore great differences between the climates of the different sections. Because of this, the crops in the north differ from those in the south. On the lowlands of the south rice, sugar, cotton, and oranges are grown. On the higher lands tobacco, opium, tea, and silk are produced. In the



*Photo by Hoag*

FIG. 56. Temple of Agriculture, Peking, China

northern part wheat, millet, hemp, and beans are cultivated. The chief foods of the Chinese are rice and fish. Many millions of people are engaged in fishing.

Long ago there were extensive forests in China, but most of the timber has been cut. In many parts of the country there are very few trees left. Because of the removal of the timber from the hillsides, the streams have cut countless gullies and ravines, and have washed

away much valuable soil. The vegetation formerly prevented the water from running rapidly from the slopes, and therefore the streams flowed throughout the entire year. Now the water flows from the hills very quickly after rains, and the land is not kept moist.



FIG. 57. A house in the country

*Photo by Hamilton*

So scarce has timber become that it is difficult for people to obtain fuel. Stubble and weeds are dried and used for this purpose. In the fuel yards bundles of these materials, as well as faggots, are sold. Bamboo is grown very extensively, and is used for many purposes.



Perhaps you are wondering why the Chinese do not burn coal. China has vast deposits of this useful mineral, but little attention has been paid to mining it. One reason for this is that the Chinese change their customs very slowly. Railroads are few, and coal

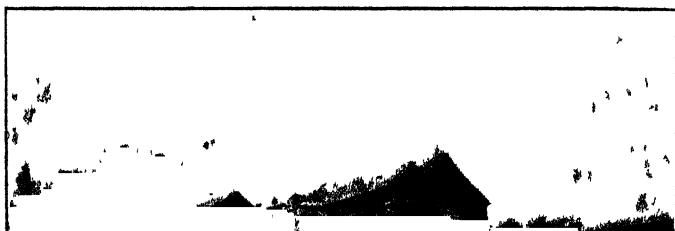


FIG. 58. A Chinese cart

*Photo by Hamilton*

cannot be readily transported without the use of railroads. Of course some coal is used in the larger cities. In the autumn hundreds of camels enter Peking daily, bringing coal for winter use from the mines about fifteen miles north of the capital. In addition to coal, China has gold, silver, lead, copper, tin, and sulphur.

Horses are not common in China, and therefore there are comparatively few wagon roads. In the northern part of the country a clumsy two-wheeled cart is used. As these carts have neither springs nor seats you may be sure that riding in them is not very pleasant. The

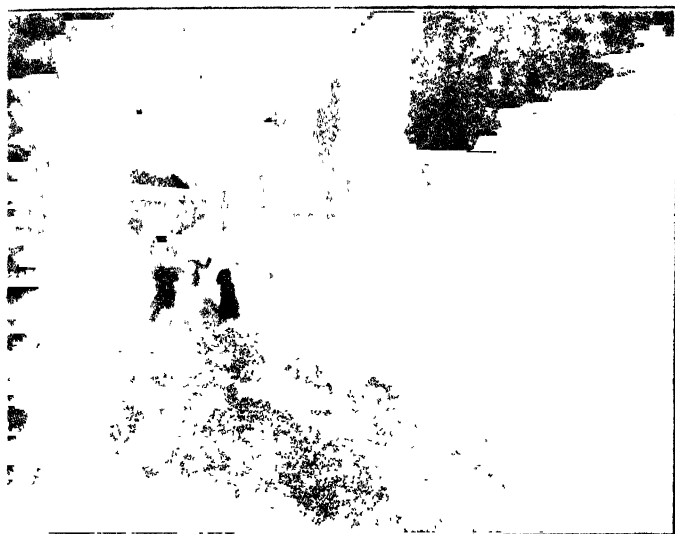


FIG. 59. A sedan chair

*Photo by Hamilton*

people of China used just such carts as these three thousand years ago.

Even in the cities the means of transportation are poor. In most cases the streets are but a few feet wide, and it would not be possible to use such vehicles as are found in the cities of the United States. Street

cars, omnibuses, cabs, automobiles, and express wagons are seldom seen.

It seems strange to talk of riding in a chair, but this is a very common method of traveling in China. There are various forms of *sedan chairs*. They are usually

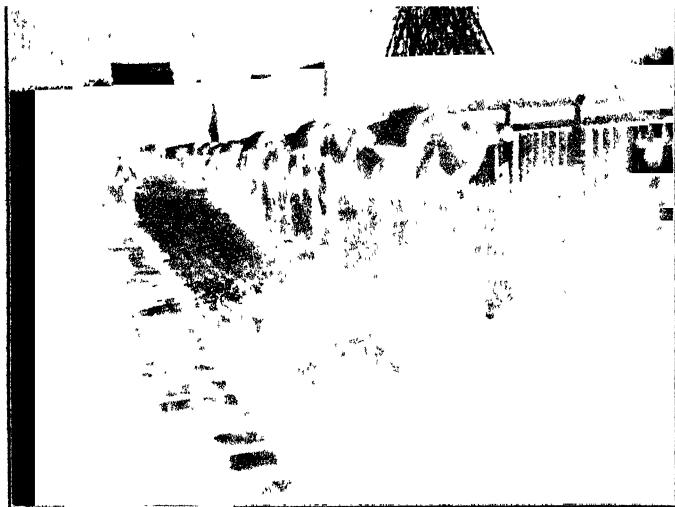


FIG. 60. A camel train

made of bamboo, and are sometimes placed upon a platform to the ends of which poles are attached. The chair is inclosed by walls and a roof of cloth. The front is left open. There is a small window at either side, but this may be curtained. The chair is carried by two or more men, who grasp the ends of the poles.

The mule litter is another common mode of travel. This is a boxlike affair large enough to hold a person. At either end there are two poles, and these rest upon the back of a mule. The litter is very unsteady in motion, and becomes tiresome after an hour or two.

In northern China many camel trains are employed. Coal, tea, and other commodities are transported by this means. The camel caravans usually travel by night, as mules and horses are afraid of them.

Now down a narrow street we hear a most dismal squeaking. As the sound draws nearer we see that it is produced by a wheelbarrow. On either side of the wheel a man is calmly sitting upon a little platform. In southern China there are thousands of men who push *passenger* wheelbarrows. Imagine going shopping, sight-seeing, or calling in a wheelbarrow !

The wheelbarrows are used for freight as well as for passengers. Often in the narrow, winding roads we see still narrower pavements made of brick or stone. These pavements were made for the wheelbarrows. A man will push a load of from one hundred to five hundred pounds. Goods are often carried for quite long distances in this way. The men usually travel in companies, for by so doing they can help one another, and also guard against robbers.

Across the low, flat plain of China a great many canals have been dug, thus connecting the various

ivers. Some of these canals are short, and some are very long. Much of the trade of the country is carried on by means of these canals. They are also very valuable because the people raise fish, ducks, and bulbs, and do much laundry work in them. Many houses



*Photo by Hamilton*

FIG. 61. A wheelbarrow used for carrying freight and passengers

are built on both sides of these canals, just as houses in our country are built on both sides of the streets.

The longest of the Chinese canals, and in fact the longest canal in the world, is the Grand Canal. It is more than six hundred miles in length, and was dug some twelve hundred years ago. This canal connects

the two great rivers of China, and extends from Hangchow to Peking. The Grand Canal is not of so much value as it used to be, because now many ships go to and fro upon the rivers, and some railroads have been built.

China is shut off from the rest of the world by the

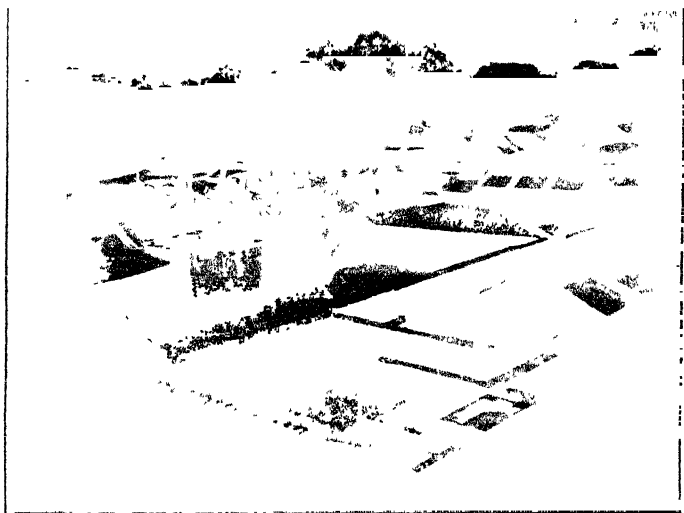


FIG. 62. A Chinese village

Pacific Ocean on the east and mountains and plateaus on other sides. There was for ages little communication between the people of China and those of other nations. It was therefore quite natural for the Chinese to speak of their land as *the* land, and themselves as *the* people of the world. Since they regarded themselves as being so important, they changed their

customs very little. As you have been told, they have had schools for a long time, and written language changes slowly. These are some of the reasons why China is so backward to-day, although she was once in advance of her neighbors.

China is now attracting the attention of the whole world. For many centuries she has been an empire,



FIG. 63. Canal in Canton, China

*Photo by Hoag*

but toward the close of the year 1911 the people proclaimed their country a republic, and they are now governed by a president whose name is Yun Shi Kai. The Chinese president appears to be a very able man. In a speech made on April 29, 1912, he advised establishing a uniform system of currency, and a standard of weights and measures. He also recommended the ap-

pointment of ministers of forestry, industry, and commerce, and advised that there be absolute religious liberty. This is a wonderful step for the Chinese people to take. Some think that the republic will not long endure.

The Chinese are industrious, patient, and studious. Many of the progressive men of the country have been educated in the United States, and therefore know something of a republican form of government. If she is permitted to develop in her own way, China will, in time, take her place as one of the foremost nations of the world.

Oliver Wendell Holmes said of China:—

“Brothers, whom we may not reach  
Through the veil of alien speech,  
Welcome! welcome! eyes can tell  
What the lips in vain would spell, —  
Words that hearts can understand,  
Brothers from the Flowery Land!

“We, the evening's latest born,  
Hail the children of the morn!  
We, the new creation's birth,  
Greet the lords of ancient earth,  
From their storied walls and towers  
Wandering to these tents of ours!

“Land of wonders, fair Cathay,  
Who long hast shunned the staring day,



## ASIA

Hid in mists of poet's dreams  
By thy blue and yellow streams, —  
Let us thy shadowed form behold, —  
Teach us as thou didst of old.

‘ Knowledge dwells with length of days ;  
Wisdom walks in ancient ways ;  
Thine the compass that could guide  
A nation o'er the stormy tide,  
Scourged by passions, doubts, and fears,  
Safe through thrice a thousand years !

‘ Looking from thy turrets gray,  
Thou hast seen the worlds decay :  
Egypt drowning in her sands, ---  
Athens rent by robber's hands, --  
Rome, the wild barbarian's prey,  
Like a storm cloud swept away.

‘ Looking from thy turrets gray,  
Still we see thee. Where are they  
And lo ! a new-born nation waits,  
Sitting at the Golden Gates  
That glitter by the sunset sea,  
Waits with outspread arms for the

‘ Open wide, ye gates of gold,  
To the Dragon's banner fold !  
Builders of the mighty wall,  
Bid your mountain barriers fall !  
So may the girdle of the sun  
Bind the East and West in one,

"Till Mount Shasta's breezes fan  
The snowy peaks of Ta-Sieue-Shan, —  
Till Erie blends its waters blue  
With the waves of Tung-Ting-Hu, —  
Till deep Missouri lends its flow  
To swell the rushing Hoangho !"

## CHAPTER XIII

### CHINESE TEA GARDENS

ONE of the ancient industries of the ancient land of China is the production of tea. The Chinese have cultivated the plant for four thousand years, but for centuries they ~~used~~ tea as a medicine and not as a beverage. About one hundred years before the Boston Tea Party occurred, tea was introduced into Europe, and later it found its way to our country.

“ Tea is now a common drink in most countries, but it is produced in few parts of the world. This is because the plant requires a warm, moist climate, and also a great deal of care. A very large part of the world's supply of tea is grown in China, but more is now exported from India and Ceylon than from China. Considerable tea is grown in Japan and Formosa, and a little in the United States.

In China, as you have seen, the population is very dense, and therefore the farms are small. In fact, we may properly speak of them as gardens. The tea farmer spades his ground, for he does not own a horse, and then plants the seeds of the tea plant. Land sloping to the south is often selected, as this is a little

warmer than land sloping in any other direction. In about three years after planting, the first crop of leaves can be gathered. In China they are usually picked four times each year, and the trees continue to yield for twenty-five or thirty years.

You would hardly call these plants *trees*, for they are only five or six feet in height. The tea grower says that if they were not kept pruned, the trees would reach a height of twenty-five feet. It is much less expensive to pick the leaves from low than from tall plants, and, moreover, the tea is better in quality.

Women as well as men gather the tea leaves. It is quite common for the pickers to carry baskets slung over their shoulders, and in these baskets the leaves are placed. As there is much juice or sap in the leaves, the first process after picking is that of drying them. For this purpose the tea is placed upon bamboo trays, and dried in the sunshine or by means of artificial heat. While the leaves are drying they are stirred at intervals, so that they may dry evenly and quickly.

Next, we observe that the workmen place the partially dried leaves in metal pans over charcoal fires. During this process, which is known as "firing," the leaves are rolled by hand. It is this rolling that gives the tea leaves the twisted appearance that you have observed.



*Copyrighted by Brown Bros.*

FIG. 64. Carrying tea in China

We are surprised to learn that green and black tea are not really different varieties. They may be produced from the very same plant. If the leaves are dried rapidly, they will retain their green color, but if they are dried slowly, and chiefly by the heat of the sun, the leaves turn black. The very finest quality of tea is produced from the bud at the end of the shoot. This tea is not commonly exported, and it is said that the leaves of the rose, ash, plum, and buckthorn are sometimes mixed with those of the tea plant.

The Chinese call the houses where tea is cured and packed, *tea-hongs*. Visiting one of these we see several workmen rolling and tossing bags about the size of footballs. Each bag is partly filled with tea leaves, and this is one method of drying. The leaves are rolled and twisted by this process, producing the variety known as *gunpowder tea*. We also see in the hong a man whose business it is to taste or sip tea from tiny cups, so that he may grade it and fix its price. The men who do this work are known as *tasters*.

As transportation by water has a bad effect upon tea, the finest grades are commonly shipped by land. Tea that is to be shipped across the ocean is placed in boxes lined with sheet lead in order to protect it. Hankau is the greatest tea market in China. Most

of the tea shipped to the United States lands at San Francisco.

The Russians are great tea drinkers, and they import large quantities of tea from China. Some of this is shipped by the Siberian Railroad, and some of it is carried over the mountains and across the deserts on the backs of camels. Great quantities of broken tea leaves are steamed in cotton bags and then pressed in molds into the shape of bricks. These bricks are sometimes a foot in length and are worth several dollars each. Much of this tea, known as *brick tea*, is purchased by Russia. In the western part of the Chinese Empire these bricks pass as money.

The greater part of China's immense output of tea comes from gardens. The work of preparing the ground, cultivating the plants, picking, curing, and packing the tea, is nearly all done by hand. The use of machinery and of more scientific methods in India and Ceylon have led to an increase in the quantity and an improvement in the quality of the tea grown there.

You may be surprised to learn that some tea is now produced in the United States. About one hundred years ago a French botanist planted some tea near Charleston, South Carolina. Little by little the industry has grown until now the "Pinehurst" tea gardens, as they are called, consist of about one hun-

dred acres. The industry is carried on in the most scientific manner, and several tons of tea are produced each year. While this is a very small amount, the

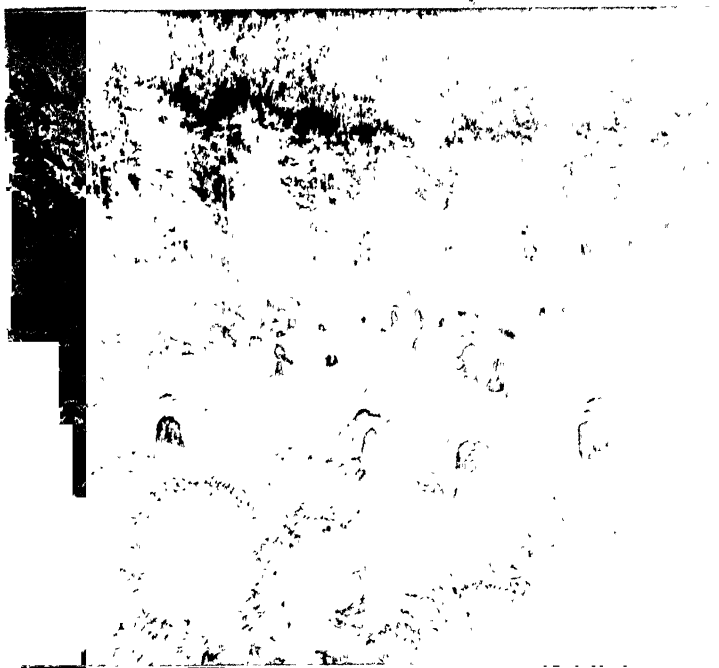


FIG. 65 Picking Tea, "Pinehurst," South Carolina

output will probably increase. We are not willing to work for as low wages as are the Chinese, and therefore our tea gardens may never be as extensive as those of China.



## CHAPTER XIV

### SOME CHINESE CITIES

*Canton.* — In China there are many great cities. Of some of them so little is known that you have never seen their names in your geography. The most populous of the cities of China is Canton, situated upon the north bank of the Chu-kiang or Pearl River, not very far from the sea. In Chinese Chu means *pearl*, and kiang *river*.

As our ship approaches the city we see that there are hundreds and probably thousands of covered boats in the river. These boats are the homes of people too poor to own land, or to rent houses. Thousands of people spend most of their lives upon these house-boats. Many of the boats serve as stores and shops, so that the river population can do business without going to the land.

The Chinese way of living is so different from that of Americans and Europeans that foreign residents in China have to themselves the part of the city in which they live. This area is often called a *concession*. In Canton the foreign concession is on a small island in the river. Two bridges connect it with the

mainland, but Chinamen are not permitted to cross these and enter the foreign quarter without a pass. This island belongs to the English and the French. In this part of Canton are found broad, clean streets, parks, churches, banks, fine business houses, and comfortable homes with lawns and gardens.

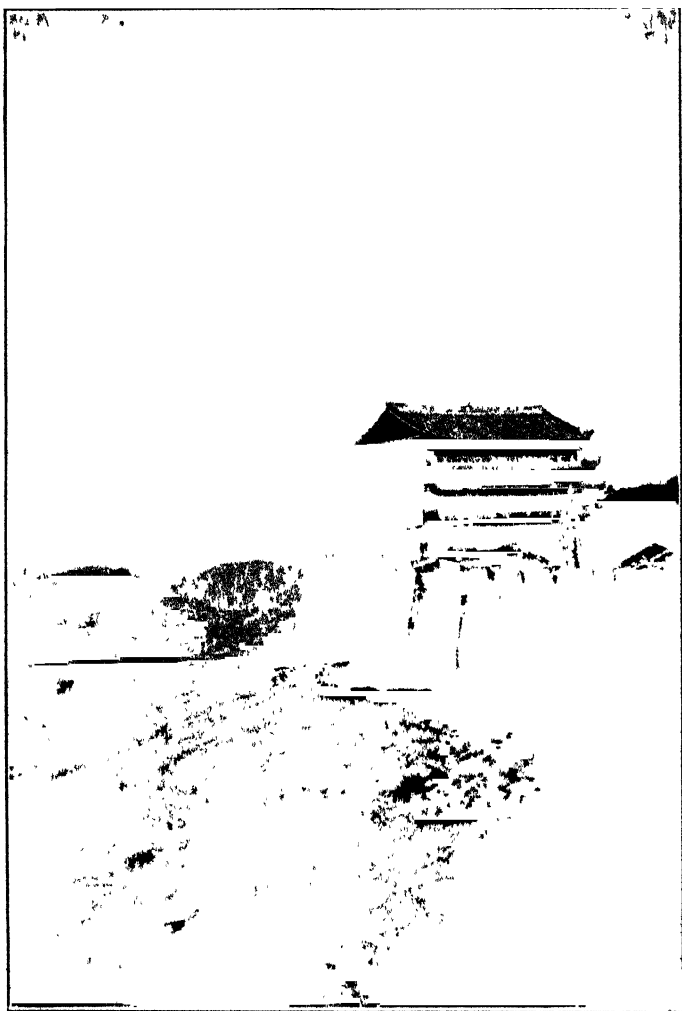


FIG. 66. River scene, Canton

*Photo by Hong*

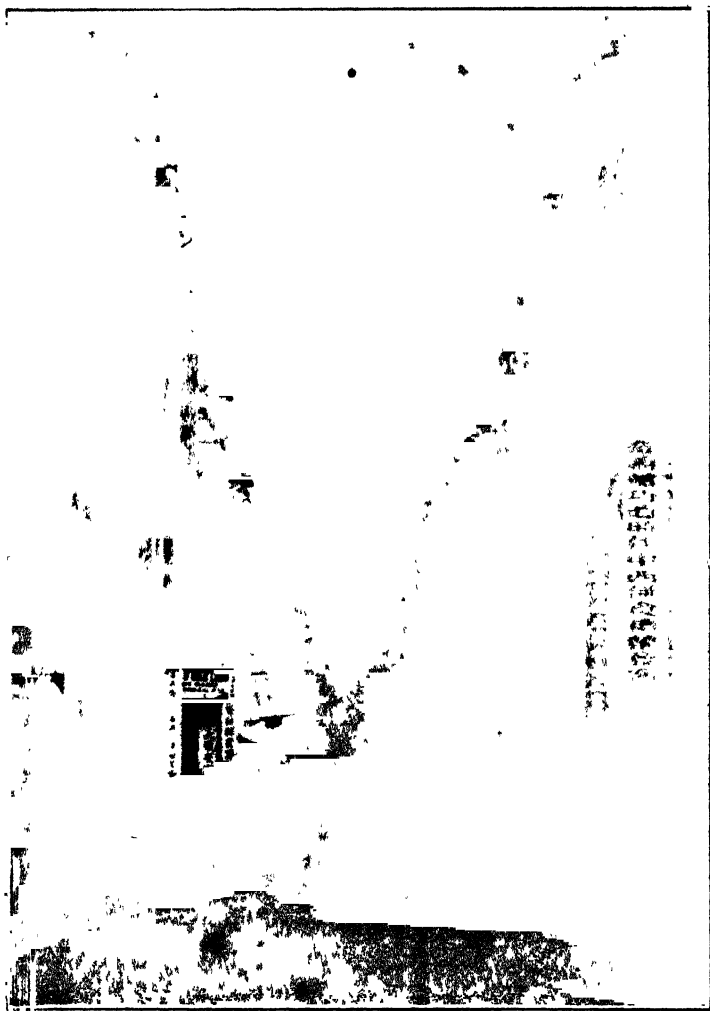
Crossing one of the bridges and entering the native city we find ourselves in a different world. Like most Chinese cities Canton is walled. Its streets are, in many cases, not more than six feet in width. Of course no cars, wagons, or carriages can be used. Two sedan chairs, or two wheelbarrows, can pass each other only with difficulty. There is almost constant shouting as the people crowd one another in these narrow passageways.

As we mingle with the throng we observe that most of the shops have their fronts open to the street in-



*Photo by Howell*

**FIG. 67.** A pagoda and part of old wall at Canton (138)



*Photo by Howell*

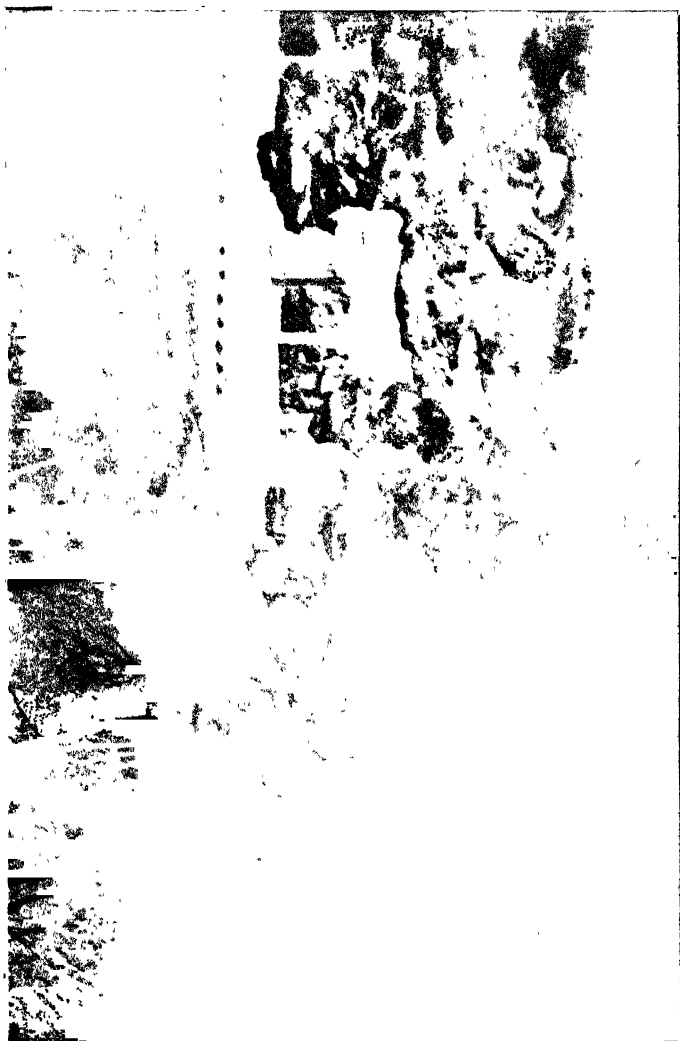
FIG. 68. A street scene. Observe the signs

stead of having doors or windows. At night the fronts are put in. We see jewelry, silks, satins, fans, furs, vases, porcelain, ivory and jade work, and other things displayed. The signs interest us because they hang vertically. They are generally red, blue, green, or white. You remember that the Chinese write in vertical instead of in horizontal lines.

Looking above us we see that mats stretch from house to house over the narrowest streets. This keeps both sunshine and rain from the people who walk in them. Public story tellers, letter writers, acrobats, musicians, and traveling barbers all do business in the streets. There is such a tangle of houses and crooked streets that it is not safe for a stranger to wander about the city without a guide. Although the city is of great interest to us, it is unpleasant because it is so dirty.

*Shanghai.* — Another of the great cities of China is Shanghai, situated on the west bank of the Whangpoo River and about twenty-five miles from the mouth of the Yangtse River. It is about as far south as Mobile, Alabama. Its position with reference to the river, the sea, and the great plain makes Shanghai the most important commercial center of China. There are many steamships upon the river, and these are operated by means of the coal found near at hand.

In Shanghai there are cotton mills, for considerable



*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 69. A mandarin's garden in Shanghai

cotton is grown in the vicinity. The coal and the cheap labor help to make the manufacture of the cotton goods profitable. The city exports much tea and silk. The fertile region lying about Shanghai is sometimes called the "Garden of China." As the land is almost perfectly level, canals from all directions enter the city, thus affording cheap transportation of goods.

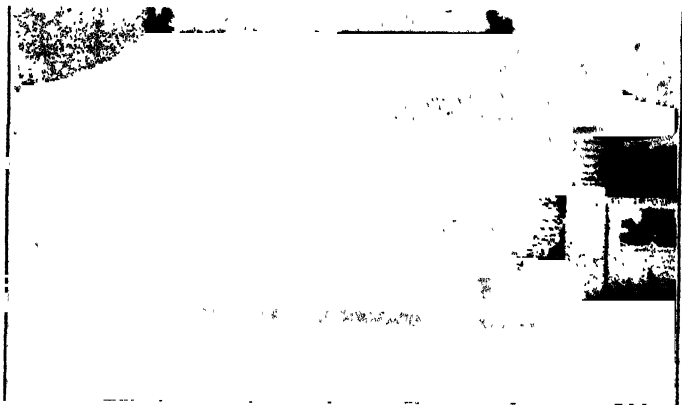
As in Canton, the native quarter is dirty and has narrow, crowded streets. The foreign quarter is clean, and has street cars. A telegraph line connects the city with Peking.

*Peking.* — On a sandy plain, in the latitude of Philadelphia, is situated Peking, the capital of the Republic of China. *Pei* means *north*, and *king* is the Chinese for *capital* or residence. Formerly Peking was the northern residence of the rulers, and Nanking the southern capital, or residence. Tientsin, the port of Peking, is about eighty miles distant, and the cities are connected by means of a railroad.

Americans who have spent years in the Chinese capital consider its climate very delightful. The rainy season occurs in the late summer and early autumn. The winters are cold and bracing. In the spring much dust is blown into the city from the desert of Gobi.

Peking is surrounded by a great wall through

which there are several gates. The gate towers may be seen for miles. At night the gates are closed and locked. You can scarcely imagine a city in our country being locked up at night. The top of the wall is broad, and forms a clean and pleasant walk. Natives are not permitted to walk upon the wall, but this privilege is extended to foreigners.



*Photo by Houg*

FIG. 70. Where American troops camped during the Boxer rebellion

The southern part of Peking is known as the Chinese City, and the northern part as the Tatar City. Within the Tatar City is the Imperial City, and within this, the Forbidden City. It was given this name because foreigners were not allowed to enter it. Most of the business is carried on in the Chinese City. Here are found the wholesale houses, the Chinese



clubs and theatres. The streets are narrow and very poorly lighted, and in the homes there are few conven-



*Photo by Hoag*

FIG. 71. Temple of Heaven, Peking

iences. The Tatar City has broad streets, and here are found the court and the legations.

Walking through the streets of the capital we see many interesting things. Perhaps, instead of walking, we ride in a sedan chair. Here is a bird trainer with a crowd about him. His birds will fly from him, and, re-

turning, will perch upon the thumb, wrist, or shoulder of the trainer. Other men are flying kites in the streets. Some are practicing archery, and others baking goodies

for any who may purchase. Acrobats and jugglers are performing wonderful tricks before admiring audiences.

We see comparatively few women upon the streets of this great city, for they do not have the freedom that American and European women have. Their condition is improving, however. There is, in Peking, a women's daily paper, published by women.

Here comes a wedding procession. At the head is carried a baked pig, or perhaps a large piece of pork. It is hoped that this will attract the attention of the evil spirits so that they will allow the bride to pass in safety. The bride is borne in a red sedan chair, and is locked in. One of the friends of the groom carries the key. Musicians who make most doleful music are in the procession.

As the bride approaches the home of the man who is to be her husband, many firecrackers are exploded. The groom comes out of the house, and assists the bride from the sedan chair. Each sips a cup of wine, and the groom then leads the bride into the house. The assembled friends then feast and make merry.

About two miles north of Peking is a wonderful bell, which was made before Columbus discovered America. It is said to be the largest suspended bell in the world. It weighs sixty tons, and is thirty-four

feet in circumference at the rim. Superstitious people throw coins at the top of the bell, and if they drop through the hole where the tongue should be, it is believed that any wish expressed when the coin is thrown will be granted.

## CHAPTER XV

### DAILY LIFE IN CHINA

LITTLE WANG is the son of a Chinese merchant. His home is in Peking. The members of the family live in rooms behind the store or shop. There are several clerks in the store, and most of them are relatives of Wang's father. When Wang is a few years older, he will take his place in the store.

This shop is frequently visited by Americans and Europeans, for it is one in which curios, silks, fans, jewelry, and such things are sold. When a customer enters, tea is served before any business is done. Usually a good deal of bargaining is necessary before a sale is made. Europeans are generally charged a higher price for a given article than are Chinese people. When a purchase has been completed, payment is made in Mexican dollars, or, perhaps, by cutting a piece of silver from a bar of that metal and weighing it.

Would you like to take dinner with Wang? You will find it very different from a dinner such as would be served in your own home. There are many courses, but most of the dishes are unfamiliar to you, and you may not like the cooking. These are some of the

dishes served: peanuts fried in oil, watermelon seeds, uncooked eggs, cold salted chicken, tender shoots of the bamboo, fish and gravy. Soup is the last course served. After the meal, tea is passed. You look in vain for a knife and fork and for spoons. These sticks of ebony, about eight inches long, square at one end, and round at the other, take the place of knives, forks, and spoons. They are called *chopsticks*. The round ends are grasped and the food carried on the square ends. After the meal, wet napkins are passed around so that the lips and the fingers may be washed. Wang eats with his mother and sisters, for in China the men and women do not eat together.

The furniture in Wang's home is not like that in yours. Much of it is of bamboo, because, as you have been told, wood is very scarce. In the homes of the wealthy, however, there are costly pieces of furniture. The beds are of wood, but have no mattresses. No stoves, such as those with which you are familiar, are found in the house. There are small braziers in which charcoal is burned, which serve for boiling water for tea.

In one end of the kitchen is a large box of brick or stone partly filled with sand. This is called the *kang*, and it serves the purpose of a stove. Grass, faggots, or charcoal are burned in it. During cold weather the members of the family sleep on the kang.

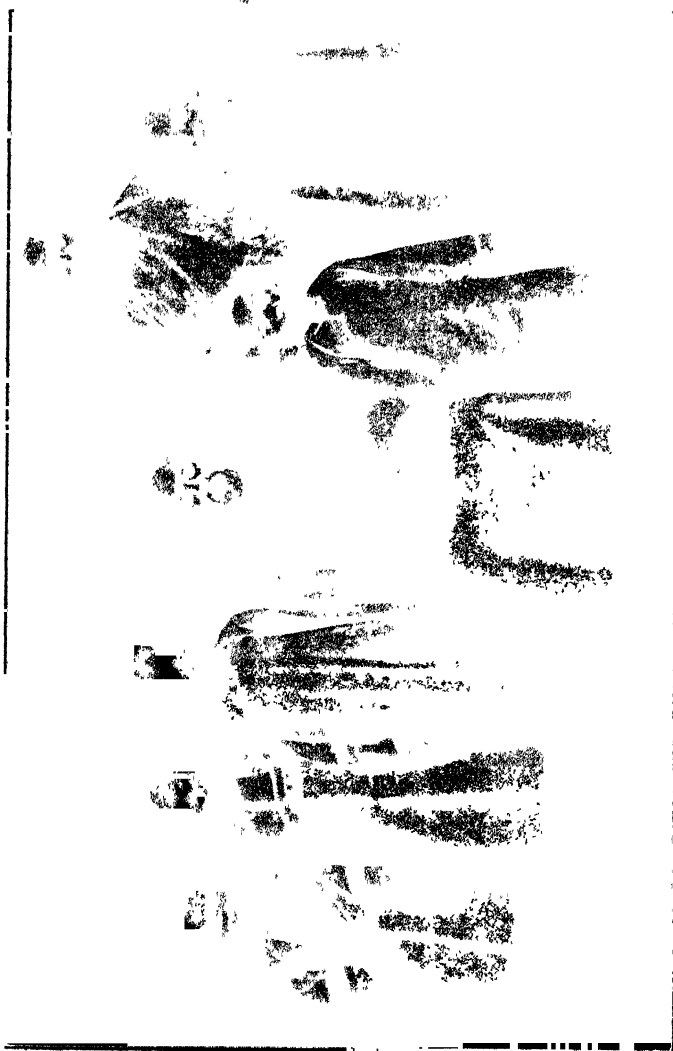


FIG. 72. Chinese costumes

The people of China depend more upon extra clothing than upon a fire for warmth. When it is *real* cold, an extra suit of clothing is worn. You think Wang's clothes odd, but he thinks yours are equally so. He wears a kind of loose jacket that reaches a little below his waist. This is of pink cotton. His trousers are blue and are tied at the ankles. He wears white stockings and flat shoes that have soles of wood, to which an upper sole of felt is fastened. The low cloth uppers are decorated with red and green. On his head he wears a round black hat without any rim.

The men and the women dress very much alike in China. The woman's jacket or tunic is longer than the man's. Chinese women seldom wear hats, but they carry fans or parasols to keep off the sunshine. Gloves are never worn. When it is cold, the hands are protected by the long sleeves of the jackets. Sometimes tiny stoves are carried in the sleeves. Chinese children are dressed like their parents.

Wang's father keeps several servants, for wages are very low in China. The servants do all of the buying for the household, and they keep a small commission for themselves. This is known as the *squeeze*. When the servants go to purchase food, or anything else in small amounts, they carry a string of coins called *cash*. Cash coins are made of copper. They are round, and have a square hole in the center so that they can be

carried on a string or a wire. The value of a cash varies, but probably on the average it is not worth more than one-tenth of a cent in our money. A string of cash called a "tias" consists of one thousand pieces. This weighs several pounds and yet is worth less than a dollar in our money. Here is a table of Chinese currency.

10 cash = 1 fun

10 fun = 1 tsien

10 tsien = 1 tael

While the value of a tael varies at different times and in different parts of the republic, it is usually between sixty and seventy cents in our money.

Vegetables, eggs, and wood are sold by weight, and this is a very fair method. It is beginning to be employed in our country. A poor Chinaman, and most of the people of China are poor, buys in very small quantities. It is not uncommon to purchase a single potato, the leg or wing of a chicken, or fish or rice to the amount of a single cash.

China has had schools for several thousand years, and Wang is sent to school. His sister Scherza does not go, as it is not considered necessary for Chinese girls to be educated. Chinese letters appear quite different from ours. They do not represent sounds as ours do, but ideas. Wang will have to learn four or five thousand of these characters instead of twenty-six as you do. When Wang names the points of the compass,



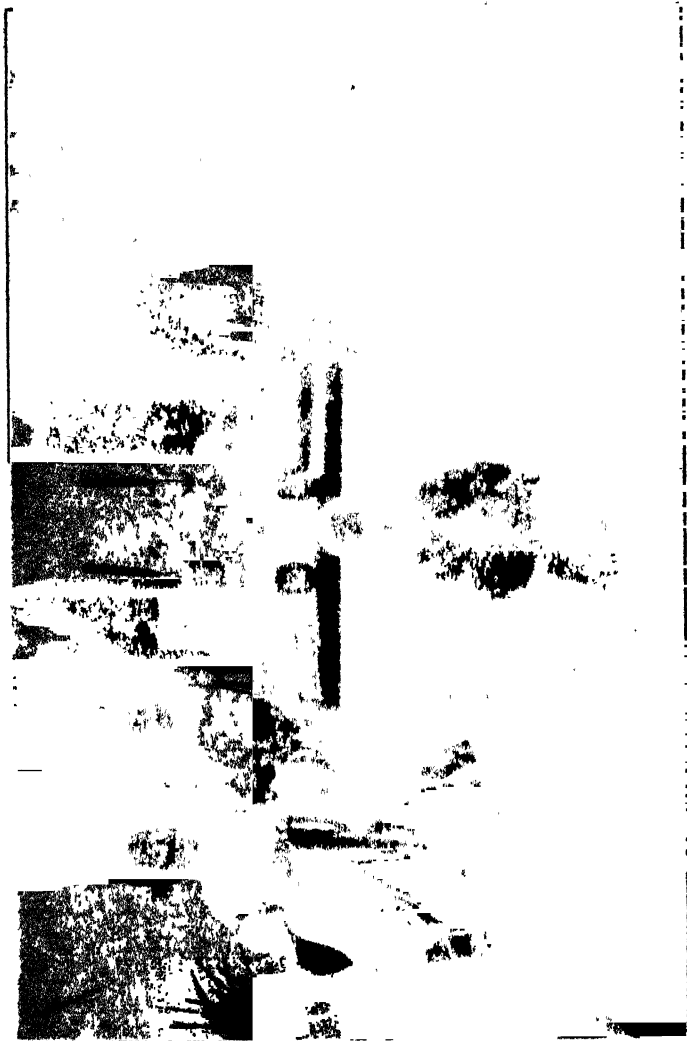


FIG 73. Chinese family engaged in ancestor worship

he says *pei, nan, tung, si*, instead of north, south, east, west.

• On opening a Chinese book, we find that the leaves are printed on one side only. The printing is in columns, and it is read from top to bottom and from right to left. There is a great deal of noise in a Chinese school, for the pupils study aloud. When reciting, they turn their backs upon the teacher. In writing a letter the year is given first; as, Peking, China, 1912, July 4th.

Wang's teacher has very long finger nails. In fact, they are nearly as long as his fingers. This indicates that he does not labor with his hands. Ladies of the upper class follow the same custom. Partly on this account it is not customary to shake hands in China. The Chinaman shakes his own hand instead of that of his friend. To protect the finger nails, cases of gold or silver are worn.

In China, children, and grown persons, reverence their parents and ancestors. This custom is spoken of as *ancestor worship*. This is one reason why the customs of the country change so slowly. The people believe that what was good enough for their ancestors is good enough for them.

Nearly all objects in China have a meaning. The blossoms of the oleander and the peach mean "long life." The pomegranate stands for many children, and the dragon for power. A bat means happiness.

Because of this symbolism, presents have a special significance.

Wang and his sister Scherza like to watch the traveling barbers work. They carry a charcoal stove, a



FIG. 74. A scene in a Chinese Court

basin and towels, besides a box in which are their tools. The Chinese barber is often a dentist and a surgeon as well. There are also many fortune tellers and many cobblers in the streets.

## CHAPTER XVI

### THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

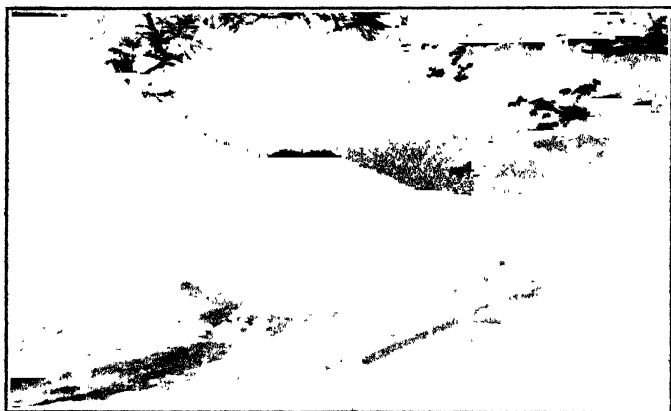
JAPAN, like China, is a very old nation, and yet seventy-five years ago very little was known of the country or of its people. This was because Japan did not come into touch with the people of other nations. Her ports were not open to commerce. Her people did not visit other lands, and she did not welcome the people of other lands to her shores.

In 1868 Japan opened her ports to the world, and almost immediately she began to advance rapidly. Some of her most highly educated men were sent to study in foreign countries, and in every way the people worked for the progress of their land. Japan is now one of the foremost nations of the world.

A narrow, but stormy sea separates Japan from China. As in the case of the British Isles this separation has left the people free to develop in their own way to a certain extent. Just as the British Isles were at the western limit of the world as it was known before the discovery of America, so the Japanese islands were thought by their inhabitants to be at the eastern edge of the world. The Japanese called their country the

Land of the Rising Sun. Their flag symbolizes this, for it is a red circle on a white field.

The empire of Japan consists of several thousand islands, nearly all of which are merely rocks that rise above the water. A dozen or more are inhabited, but only five are very important. The area of the empire is almost exactly the same as that of California, and



*Photo by Hong*

FIG. 75. A rural scene near Nikko, Japan

about three times that of Pennsylvania. So dense is the population in Japan that she has about seventeen times as many people as California has, and seven times as many as live in Pennsylvania.

In Japan there are many volcanoes, and earthquake shocks are frequent. It is partly because of the frequency of earthquakes that the houses are commonly

built of bamboo. Such houses are not damaged by shocks as buildings of stone, wood, or brick would be, and if destroyed, it is not costly to rebuild them. Some of the greatest authorities on earthquakes are Japanese scientists.

One of the most beautiful mountains in Japan is Fujiyama, or, as it is sometimes called, Fuji San. It is a volcanic cone rising 12,365 feet above the level of the sea. The upper part of the mountain is snow-capped in the summer as well as in the winter. To the Japanese this is a sacred mountain, and it is quite a common thing to make a pilgrimage to it. You have often seen pictures of Fujiyama on Japanese articles.

#### FUJIYAMA

“When God’s creative purpose spoke  
Fair Nippon to adorn,  
Responsive Nature heard the word,  
And Fuji San was born.

“To palace of the emperor,  
To hut of mountaineer,  
The image of our Fuji San  
Brings comfort and good cheer.”

The Japanese islands extend from the latitude of Halifax, Nova Scotia, to that of Havana, Cuba. It follows from this that there is much difference between the climate of the north and that of the south. In

Sakhalin and Yezo the winters are long and cold, while in Formosa the climate is tropical. As the prevailing winds blow from the continent to Japan, the climate of the latter is colder in winter and warmer in summer than it would otherwise be.

During the late summer and the early autumn typhoons sometimes sweep over Japan. In our country we call storms of this kind hurricanes. They are occasionally very destructive, not only through the action of the wind itself, but also because the wind creates great ocean waves, which roll in upon the land.

Unlike China and India, Japan has no deserts. The rainfall is plentiful, and therefore the mountains are forested. The government has established a forestry service, which does much for the protection of the timber. The grass in Japan does not afford good pasturage, and therefore dairy products have never been important in the country.

As the interior is mountainous, most of the cultivated land is near the coast. The lowlands are very carefully tilled by the industrious people. In Japan, as in China, farms are very small, more than one half of them consisting of less than two acres each, while few have as many as forty acres each. On such small farms machinery cannot be used to advantage, and most of the work is done by hand. Ponies and water

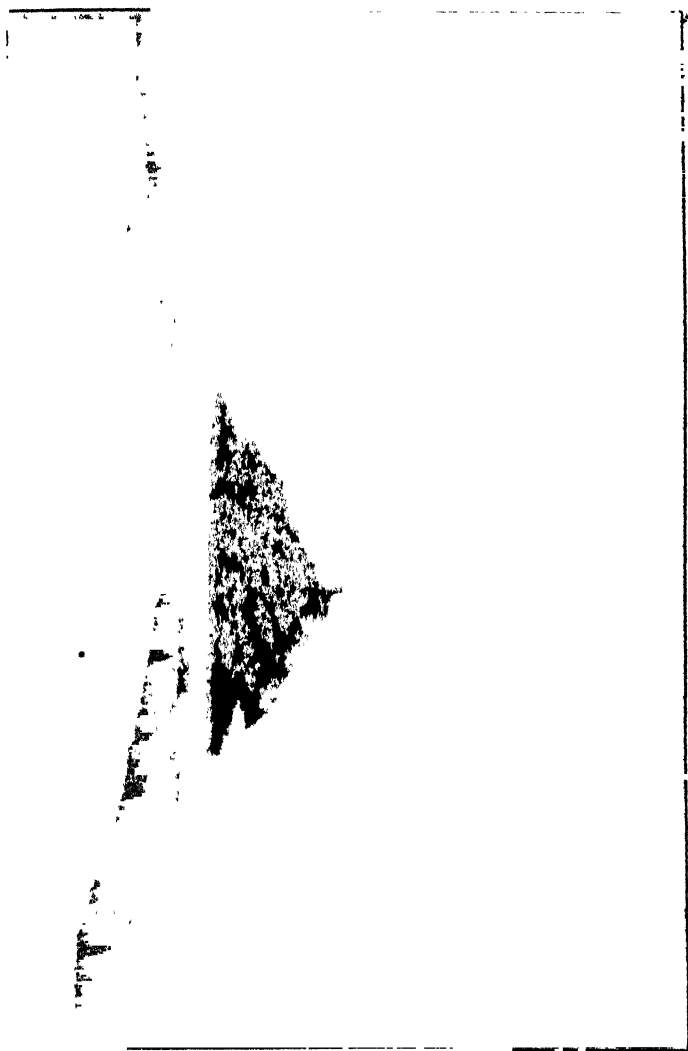
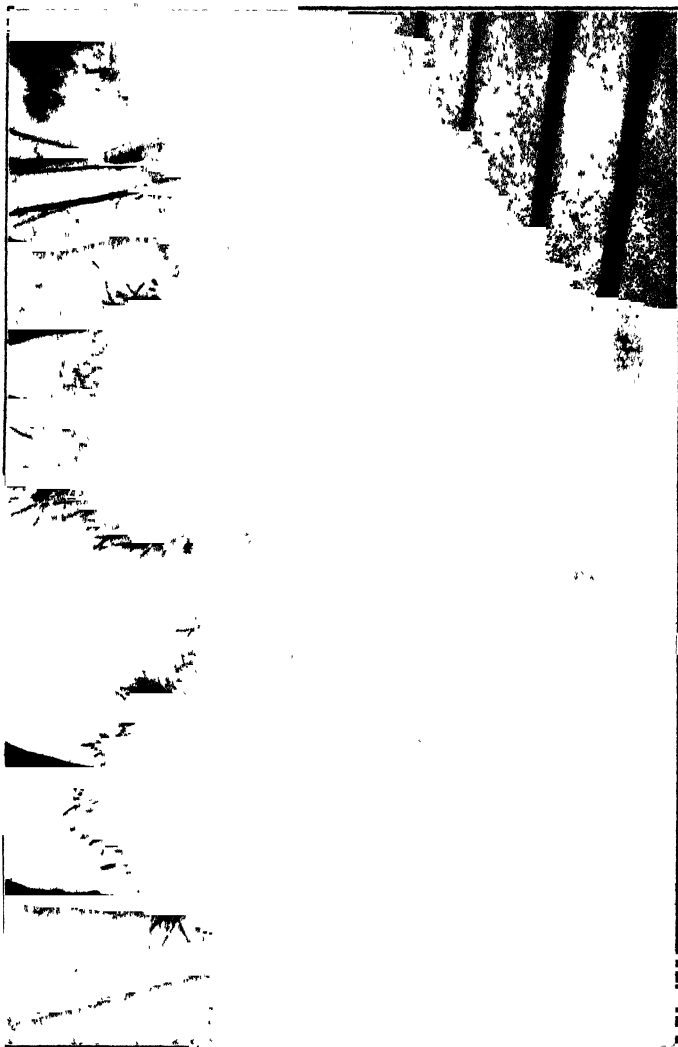


Photo by Howell

FIG. 76. Terraced rice field in Japan





*Photo by Howell*

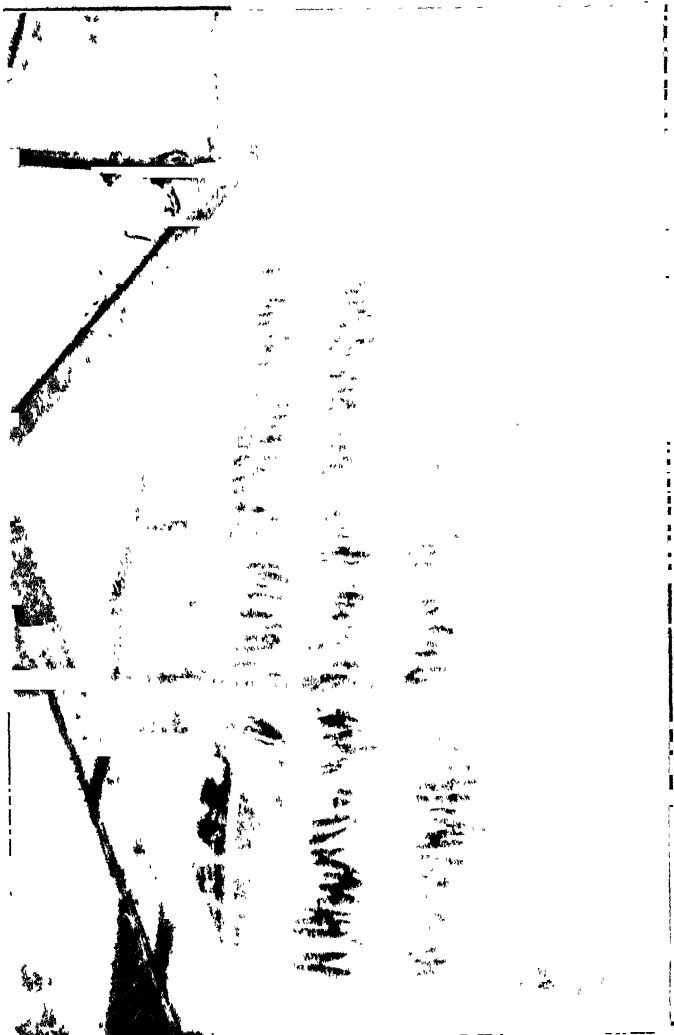
FIG. 77. Japanese coolie carrying rice straw

buffaloes are used, but it is not uncommon to see a man and a woman pulling a plow.

\* Rice is cut by means of sickles, and is then hung across bamboo poles to dry. It is usually threshed by hand. Rice straw is very useful, being made into sandals, raincoats, hats, mats, ropes, and baskets. Rice is the staple article of food in Japan, and large quantities of it are grown, but not enough to supply the demand. Tea and cotton are other important farm crops.

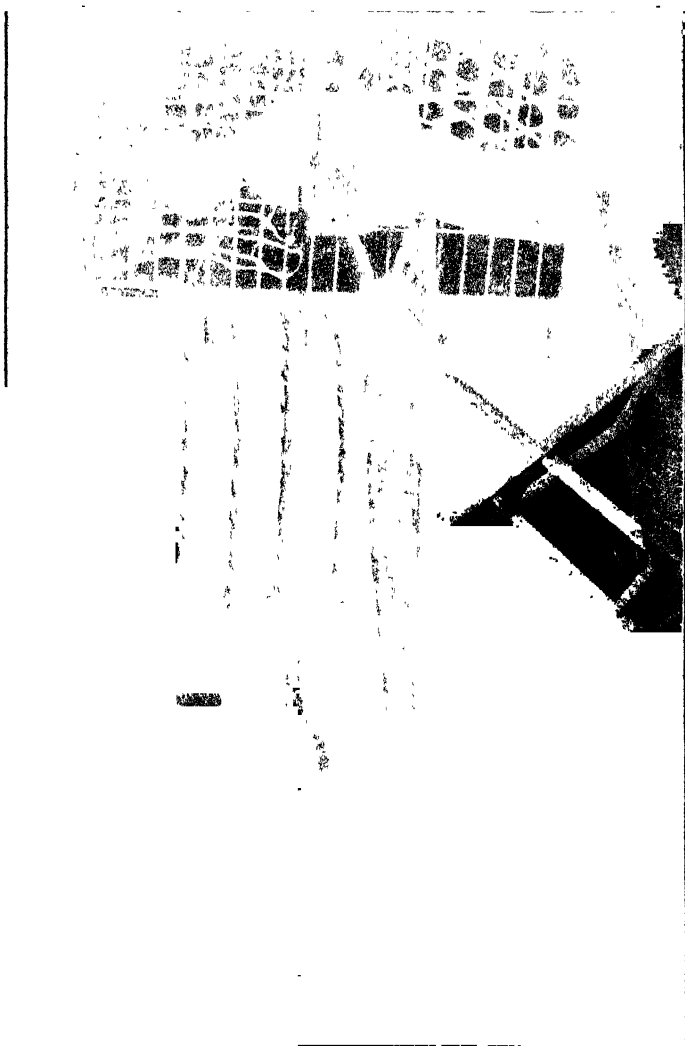
In the warmer parts of Japan the mulberry tree flourishes, and much attention is given to the production of silk. As the work of rearing the silkworms is light, much of it is done by women and girls. The government of Japan has established agricultural schools and experimental farms, and great attention is given to scientific farming.

Japan is one of the foremost nations of the world in the fishing industry. This is partly a matter of necessity, for the land is too small to supply its large population with food. It is also partly due to the fact that most of the people live near the sea, and to the abundance of fish that frequent the cold waters of a southward-flowing ocean current. One person out of every sixteen is engaged in some form of the fishing industry, while in the United States only one person out of every five hundred is so employed. To-day the



*Photo by Howell*

FIG. 78. Winter supply of vegetables near Kyoto

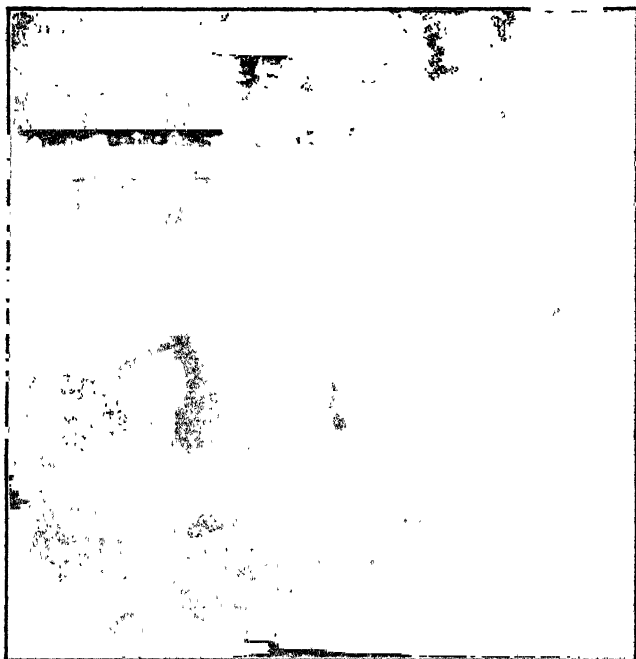


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FIG. 79. Feeding the silkworms

Japanese are being specially trained for this industry in schools established by the government.

Fish constitute one of the most important articles



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**FIG. 80. Japanese fishermen**

of food in Japan. It is eaten raw as well as cooked. Many kinds of fish of which we make no use are eaten by the Japanese. The chief kinds of fish caught off the coast of Japan are herring, sardines, mackerel,

yellowtail, salmon, and bonita. Some kinds of seaweed are eaten, and other kinds are used in other ways. Men, women, and children search the beach at low tide, gathering up everything that can be used in any way.

A very interesting form of fishing is carried on through the help of trained birds called *cormorants*. This method of fishing is at least one thousand years old. In each boat are men who row, and one or more who attend to the birds. A man may handle four, or even a larger number of cormorants.

When not actually fishing, the birds are kept in cage-like boxes. One end of a long cord is fastened to each cormorant, and the other end is held by the keeper. A cord is tied about the neck of each bird in such a way as to prevent it from swallowing the fish that it catches. The birds swim in all directions, diving and catching the fish, and they are then drawn to the boats by their owners. This method of fishing is carried on in the streams. Sometimes the fishing is done at night, a small fire in an iron box furnishing the light.

There is considerable mineral wealth in Japan, and this is of great advantage in manufacturing. Coal is found in all of the large islands, and both coal and copper are exported. In addition to these minerals, silver, lead, petroleum, salt, and sulphur are produced.



Photo by Howell

Fig. 81. Bronze dragon fountain near Kyoto

Some sulphur is used in the manufacture of matches, and some is exported.

A great deal of salt is obtained by evaporating seawater. At high tide the water is carried by means of ditches to flat, sandy areas near the coast. Water from these ditches is sprinkled on piles of sand. The water evaporates and the salt is left. The sand is then washed, and the brine collected in vats. The salt is obtained by boiling the brine.

Because of the industry, skill, and artistic taste of the people of Japan, they produce very beautiful handwork. They make excellent paper,\* some of which is used in place of leather. Matting, oilcloth, glass, porcelain, lacquered goods, fans, and metal work are made.

In the cities manufacturing is now done by means of machinery. Cotton and silk goods are manufactured quite extensively at Ozaka and Kobé (kōbē) because these cities have water power, and in addition are close to coal. At Nagasaki shipbuilding is carried on. In the future Japan must depend more and more upon manufacturing and commerce because the population is too large to be supported by agriculture. Abundant water power, coal, low wages, and the skill of the workers help to make some lines of manufacturing very profitable.

Railroad building has developed very rapidly in



*Photo by Howell*

Fig. 99 A. Unidentified in Japan

Japan, but there are still some primitive forms of transportation. Human beings carry much material which in our country is transported over wagon or railroads. A great deal of traveling is still done in the jinrikisha.

The people of Japan are fond of flowers. Many cherry trees are cultivated simply for their beautiful blossoms, for they do not bear fruit. Azaleas, peonies, and irises abound. The roselike camellia has been cultivated for centuries in the warmer parts of the empire. The lavender and white blossoms of the wistaria droop from trees overhanging tiny ponds and artificial lakes. But particular attention is given to the cultivation of the chrysanthemum. Japan is often called the "Land of the Chrysanthemum." Some of the flowers are immense in size, and several varieties are sometimes grown upon the same plant. The chrysanthemum is the national flower. See if you can find it upon a Japanese postage stamp.

#### JAPAN

"Cradled and rocked in the Eastern seas  
The islands of the Japanese  
Beneath me lie ; o'er lake and plain  
The stork, the heron, and the crane  
Through the clear realms of azure drift,  
And on the hillsides I can see  
The villages of Imarie,

Whose thronged and flaming workshops lift  
Their twisted columns of smoke on high,  
Cloud cloisters that in ruins lie,  
With sunshine streaming through each rift  
And broken arches of blue sky.

“ All the bright flowers that fill the land,  
Ripple of waves on rock or sand,  
The snow on Fujiyama's cone,  
The midnight heaven so thickly sown  
With constellations of bright stars,  
The leaves that rustle, the reeds that make  
A whisper by each stream and lake,  
The saffron dawn, the sunset red,  
Arc painted on these lovely jars;  
Again the skylark sings, again  
The stork, the heron, and the crane  
Float through the azure overhead,  
The counterfeit and counterpart  
Of Nature reproduced in Art ”  
— HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

## CHAPTER XVII

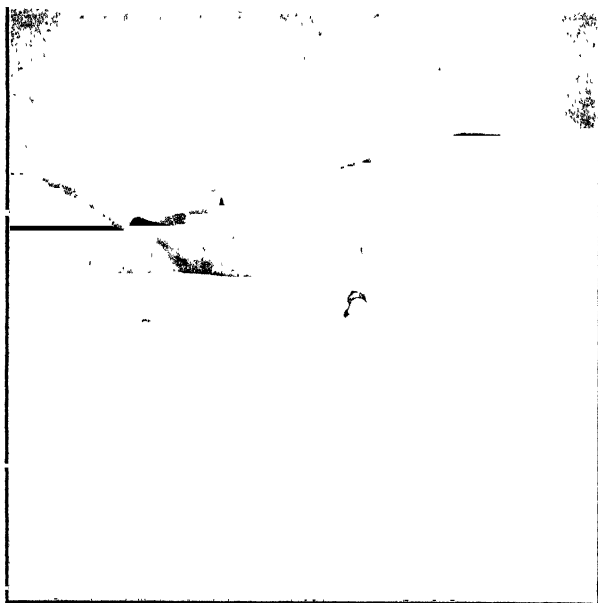
### DAILY LIFE IN JAPAN

IN many ways life in beautiful Japan is quite unlike life in our country. The houses in which the Japanese live are not like ours. The dress of the people is quite different from that seen in America. Their food differs from ours, and one of their common methods of traveling is unlike anything that we have. If you were visiting Japan, you would see many things that would interest you greatly.

You have already learned that in Japan earthquake shocks are frequent, and that, partly because of this, houses are usually constructed of bamboo. Probably you have seen fishing poles of bamboo, and you are wondering how a house could be built of such slender poles. In China and Japan bamboo grows to a thickness of five or six inches. Although light, it is very strong, but of course it could not be used in the construction of great buildings such as are found in our cities.

When carpenters in our country are building a house of wood, they make a great deal of noise. The build-

ing of an ordinary Japanese house is carried on quietly, as few nails are used. The Japanese carpenter uses corner posts of bamboo, and the roof, which is usually made on the ground, is then lifted up and placed upon



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FIG. 83. A rural home in Japan

the walls. Instead of being shingled, the roof is thatched with rice straw. The outside walls are made of bamboo, and in the colder parts of the country they are plastered on both sides. Some of the better houses

have clapboards on the outside. The floor is made of bamboo.

A house in our country consists of a definite number of rooms, and it is said to be a house of four, or six, or ten rooms, as the case may be. In Japan a house may have four rooms to-day and eight rooms to-morrow. This is because the partitions between the rooms are made of paper, and have wooden frames that slide in grooves in the ceiling and on the floor. When there is company, more partitions can be put in, and more rooms made.

Mats and cushions take the place of carpets and chairs. There are no beds such as those with which you are familiar. During the day the bedding is kept in closets, and at night it is spread upon the floor. The floors in Japanese houses are covered with clean, white matting, and when people enter a house they remove their shoes. A shoe of cloth, something like our overshoes, is sometimes worn in the house. Usually a lantern is kept burning in each bedroom all night, because the people believe that it is unlucky to sleep in the dark. The lantern is a square paper box, having a saucer of oil and a wick inside. These lanterns are often upset by earthquakes, and many fires are caused in this way.

The people of Japan are wonderful gardeners. Behind each house there is, if possible, a garden. This

may be small, but it is sure to be very artistic. Here we shall find hills from which tiny streams flow into toylike lakes. There are islands, bridges, falls, foun-



FIG. 84. A Japanese Garden

tains, trees, flowers, pagodas, and statues. In April the pink and white flowers of the cherry trees make the gardens beautiful. In November the chrysanthemum, or, as the people of Japan call it, the "kiku," is in blossom.

Instead of sitting down at a table when they eat, Japanese people sit upon cushions placed upon the floor. The tables are about six inches in height, and the dishes are very small. When a Japanese gentleman has gentlemen dining with him, the lady of the house does not eat with them unless there are lady guests present.

In nearly all Japanese houses two gods of daily food are seen. One holds a fish under his left arm, and a fishing rod in his right hand. The other sits upon two bags of rice. This, of course, indicates that fish and rice are the two chief articles of food. On New Year's Day it is quite customary to give a dried salmon as a present. Aside from fish, little animal food is eaten by the Japanese. This is in part because of religious beliefs, and in part because the people cannot afford to use land for pasturage.

In Japan much cooking is done in public ovens. There are many of these in the large cities. The women prepare dishes at home, and then take them to a public stove to be cooked. This method is cheaper than doing the cooking at home. It is common to see live fish and eels kept in tanks in the restaurants. Customers may pick out a particular eel or fish and order it cooked.

Hotels in Japan are called "tea houses." Probably this is because tea is the universal drink. The rates



are posted so that one may know the price of room and meals without asking. Strangely enough the price varies according to the rank of the guest. When one visits a hotel in Japan, the proprietor and his servants



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FIG. 85. The dress of the Japanese

come out to greet him. Tea and cakes are quickly served by a maid, and the guest is expected to give her a small sum of money called "tea money." The waitress gives the guest a receipt for this.

The people of Japan dress much as the Chinese do. They wear a loose outer garment having wide sleeves, which often serve as pockets. Laboring men usually wear hats that resemble shallow baskets turned upside down. Raincoats of rice straw are commonly worn, as are sandals of the same material. Sandals cost less than one half cent per pair. In wet weather wooden shoes are worn.

You know that in our country Indian mothers used to carry their babies upon their backs. Eskimo mothers do this to-day, and the practice is common in Japan, also. The little girls are trained to carry babies in this way, so that the mothers may have more time for work. A great deal of attention is given to children in Japan. When a boy is born, paper fish are fastened to poles above the house to announce the fact. When a baby is one hundred days old, there is a festival, and presents are given to the little one. It is then old enough to be carried on the back of an older sister. Boys and girls play together in the home until they are seven years of age, after which they are separated.

Each year there are two great children's festivals in Japan, one for boys and one for girls. The boys' festival occurs on the fifth day of May, and is called the "Feast of Flags." Then flags and paper carp, large and small, flutter and twist from house-

tops in every part of the empire. In some cases the fish are twenty feet in length. The mouth is left open, and as the paper body is inflated by the breeze, the fish appears very lifelike. The boys fly fish kites, also. The carp is a symbol of strength, and of course the Japanese parents desire their boys to be strong, manly, and brave.

On the third day of March occurs the girls' festival, known as the "Feast of Dolls." Presents of various kinds are given to the girls on this occasion, but dolls are by far the most numerous. The dolls are spoken of as "Honorable Dolls," and some of them are several centuries old. They are kept in doll houses that are furnished like houses for people.

Children in the kindergarten and the primary school wear brass tags which show their names and residences. It is very easy for the police or any one who finds a lost child to return the little one to its home. All school children wear uniforms, which vary according to the grade of the child. You would think a Japanese book very odd, for what we call the last page is its first page. The lines in the books are vertical instead of horizontal.

Although Japan has railroads, much traveling is still done by means of the jinrikisha. This is a small, two-wheeled cart. *Jin* is the Japanese word for "man," *riki* means "power," and *sha* means "wheel." So

you see, the word jinrikisha means man-power wheel or man-power carriage.

One of these little carriages with a man to draw it may be hired at a cost of from eight to fifteen cents per hour, or from fifty to seventy-five cents per day. Some of the carts can accommodate but one passenger, while others can carry two. In some cases there are tops that can be raised and lowered. The jinrikishas are sometimes decorated with paintings of chrysanthemums or dragons.

The jinrikisha man or kiki (kī'kī) generally travels at a trot, and if the roads are good, he can travel twenty miles in a day. The kikis who operate public jinrikishas are required to have a license, and upon their jackets are characters indicating their numbers. On long journeys the rikisha man is usually changed about once every ten miles. Traveling by means of a jinrikisha is cheap, the cost for short trips being about two cents per mile. When a jinrikisha man is regularly employed, his wages amount to perhaps \$2.50 per week.

Japan has not yet very largely introduced manufacturing by means of machinery, except in a few of the cities. Ozaka is the most important manufacturing center in the empire. Here cotton, silk, and woollen goods are made, for Ozaka has water power, and coal is within easy reach.

Household industries are still important in Japan, as they used to be in our country. The people are very skillful in making paper, matting, porcelain, lacquered and enameled goods, and many other things.

There are some interesting differences between a

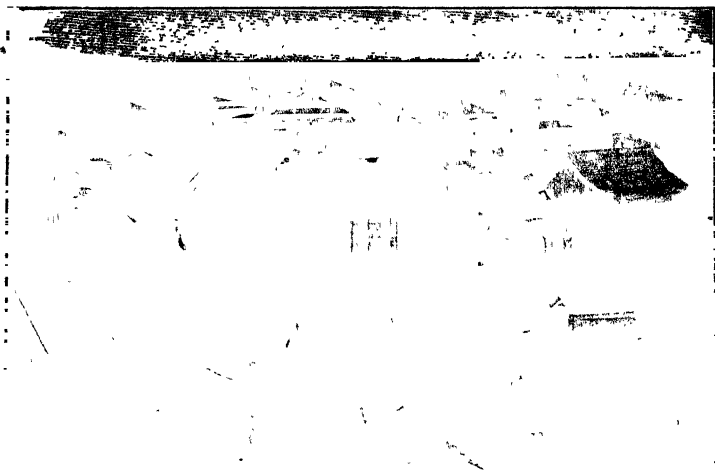


FIG. 86. A view of Yokohama and its harbor

city in Japan and a city in the United States. Most Japanese cities are rather quiet. Cars are not so numerous as they are in our cities, and there are fewer mills and factories pouring their clouds of smoke into the air. We do not find tall buildings such as are seen in all of our large cities.

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is at the head of the

bay of the same name, on both banks of the O-gana River. A fertile and highly cultivated plain surrounds the city. It has a noted university and beautiful parks. You would find it rather difficult to locate houses in Tokyo, for they are sometimes numbered



*Copyrighted by Brown Bros.*

FIG. 87. A view in Tokyo

in the order in which they were built. We observe that the newsboys carry bells to announce their wares, and do not shout as do our newsboys. The postmen run as they deliver the mail. If you were to examine the address on one of these letters you would find that

the name of the country to which the letter is to go is written first. Then comes the province or state. This is followed by the city, the street, and the number, and last of all the name of the person appears.

Curious signs to attract English-speaking people are seen in this and other Japanese cities. These are examples: "Stylished Suits made of very Moderate Price," "Cowmeat and Pigmeat sold Here."

A railroad eighteen miles long connects the capital with Yokohama, its port. Here we may see men and women coaling ships by hand. A basketful of coal is passed from person to person until it reaches the ship's bunkers. The workmen in Yokohama and other cities have the name of their employer or firm stamped upon their clothing.

Wages everywhere in Japan are low. The average price paid to farm laborers is about \$2.50 per month for men, and half as much for women. Carpenters, stone-cutters, masons, tailors, and many other classes of workers receive twenty-five or thirty cents per day. The policemen receive about \$4 per month.

In Japan, as in China, some of the coins are of very small value. One rin, for example, is worth about one twentieth of a cent in our money. One sen is worth one half a cent. If you were riding on a street car in Tokyo, you would pay one sen.

Each year many people from the United States

visit the Sunrise Land and enjoy its scenery and its inhabitants. Some Americans are making their homes in Japan, having gone there to engage in business or in teaching. A large number of Japanese people have come to America because wages are so much higher here than they are in Japan.



## CHAPTER XVIII

### KOREA

THE Sea of Japan on the east, and the Yellow Sea on the west, wash the large peninsula that we call Korea. The inhabitants of the country call it Chosen, which means the "Land of the Morning Calm." Korea is not as large as the state of Colorado, but it has a population many times as great as that of Colorado.

The peninsula of Korea is very mountainous, but some level land is found near the sea, and along the lower courses of the rivers. While the rivers are numerous, they are, for the most part, quite small. The most important is the river Han, at the mouth of which Chemulpo is situated. About sixty miles up the river is located Seoul.

As Korea extends from the latitude of New York to that of North Carolina, its climate naturally varies greatly in the different parts. At Chemulpo it is quite warm, and snow does not remain upon the ground very long. The rainy season occurs during the autumn.

In some parts of the country the forests are quite extensive, but in the more densely populated districts the timber has been cleared away. Because of this, fuel is scarce. Brush is very largely used as firewood.

The mountains of Korea produce much mineral wealth. Gold, silver, copper, iron, and coal are mined.

On the lowlands, where irrigation can be practiced, rice is grown abundantly, and, as in Siam, it is the chief



FIG. 88. Plowing in Korea

export of the country. Cotton, tobacco, beans, and ginseng are other crops. The Japanese are operating a model farm and an agricultural school at Suwon.

The Koreans are an interesting people. They have black hair which is coarse and straight, and is generally worn long. The poor people wear hats made of bam-

boo. Underneath the hat is a cap protecting the hair, which is worn in a coil on top of the head. The hats of the rich are usually made of horsehair. Boys wear their hair parted in the middle, and braided down the back.

The trousers worn by the men are so baggy that they resemble pillowcases. A coat, usually green in color,

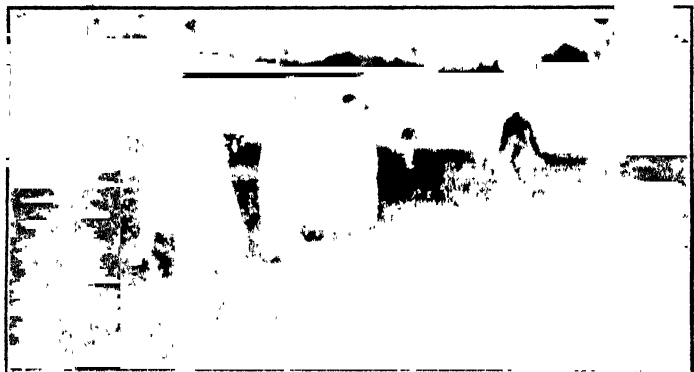


FIG. 89. Korean costumes

*Photo by Hoag*

reaches to the knees. In the belt a knife and chopsticks are stuck. Money and tobacco are carried in a bag. Smoked glasses are worn to protect the eyes, and a fan is carried for the same purpose. Sometimes the hat of the laborer is shaped like a huge bowl turned upside down, and is tied on by means of a black cord. The raincoats in Korea are usually made of rice straw as they are in Japan.

White is the emblem of mourning, and as people dress in mourning for three years after the death of a member of the family, white is very commonly worn. Cotton is generally worn by the poor, and silk by the rich.

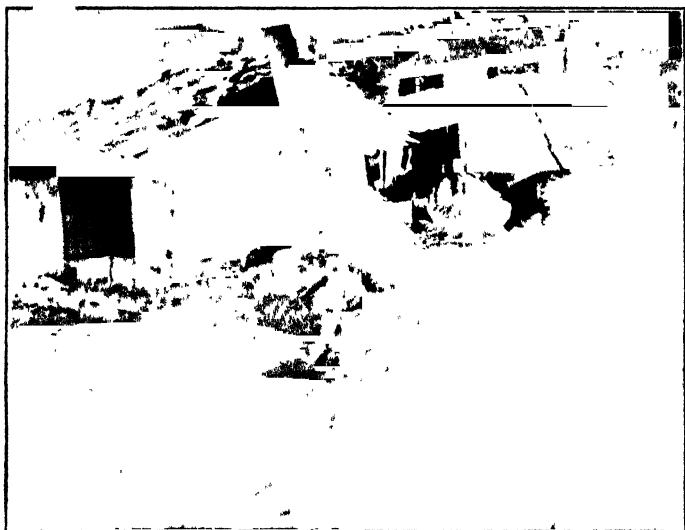


FIG. 90. Korean house

The homes of the people are as interesting as is their dress. They are generally made of bamboo. Sometimes the roofs are thatched, and sometimes tiled.

Korea is called the "Hermit Nation." This is because, until recently, the Koreans did not welcome strangers. They wished to be left to themselves. In

fact, visitors were not safe in the country until 1882. Although much traveling is done on foot, and by means of sedan chairs, there are now some railroads in Korea. In the districts far removed from railroads, burdens are carried by oxen, pack horses, and even by men.

The capital of the country is Seoul. The city is walled, and has two ancient gates, one on the north,

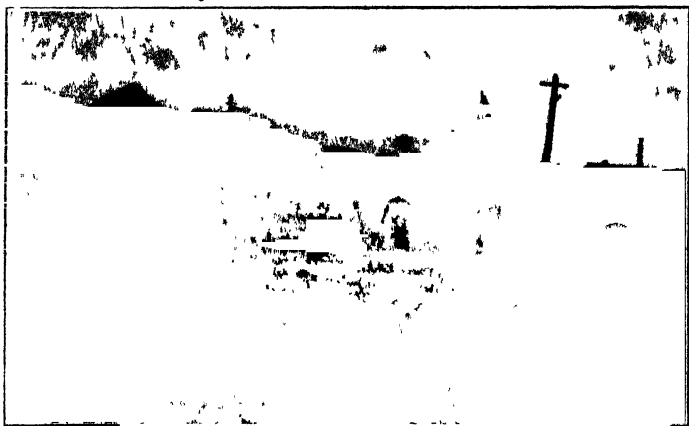


FIG 91. Street scene in Seoul, Korea *Photo by Hoag*

and one on the south, side. Above the gates rise pagoda-like buildings. In the city there is an immense bell, at the sound of which the gates are opened every morning, and closed every evening. For five centuries this has taken place.

The streets of Seoul are generally wide, but the buildings are as a rule one story high. We see

many people being drawn through the streets in jin-rikishas, and everywhere there are bullocks with loads of wood upon their backs. It would seem very strange to you to see men carrying live hogs upon their backs, and policemen carrying swords.

Women are frequently seen washing clothes in the gutters, and beating them by means of flat sticks. In front of a baker's shop two men may often be seen pounding something with large wooden mallets. On examination we find that it is dough spread upon a large board. You would be much interested in visiting a school. Instead of using slates or paper the children make the characters that take the place of our letters in sand placed upon a tray.

## CHAPTER XIX

### SIBERIA

THE Russian Empire comprises about one sixth of the land surface of the globe. This vast territory is in one compact body stretching from the Baltic Sea on the west to the Pacific Ocean on the east. In this respect it differs from the British Empire, parts of which are located in all quarters of the earth.

In a general way that part of Russia lying east of the Ural Mountains is known as Siberia. Look at your map and you will see that Siberia extends 10° north of the Arctic Circle. Naturally the extreme northern part of the country is very cold. Even during the summer the ground is frozen except a thin surface layer that is warmed by the heat of the sun. The summers are too short to make farming possible, and there are no forests. This dreary region, which is known as the *tundra*, is inhabited by Eskimos. Its southern limit is practically the seventieth parallel of north latitude.

South of the tundra is a vast forest belt hundreds of miles wide, and extending practically across Siberia from east to west. Pine, birch, and oak are some of the

most valuable trees. In addition to lumber, the forest furnishes many furs, because countless fur-bearing animals make their homes in the forest.

Between the fiftieth and sixtieth parallels of north latitude there is a rich agricultural country. There are great stretches of prairie land similar to that found in Minnesota and the Dakotas. Excellent crops of wheat, rye, oats, barley, and potatoes are grown, and



FIG. 92. A Siberian village

there is much good pasture land. Rivers are numerous, and coal, iron, copper, silver, and other forms of mineral wealth abound.

Even this fertile section of Siberia has a sparse population, just as the part of our country west of the Mississippi River had before the days of railroads. The Russian government is, of course, very anxious to develop this rich country. In 1891 it began to build the Trans-Siberian Railroad, which was finished ten years later. One can now travel by rail from St. Petersburg,



the capital of Russia, to Vladivostok on the shore of the Pacific Ocean, a distance of more than 6500 miles.

Settlers from European Russia are carried into Siberia upon the railway at a very low rate. If needy, they are loaned money. To each family settling in Siberia, about forty acres of land are given, and no taxes need be paid for three years. In 1908 more than 700,000 people settled in Siberia.

The map shows you that Siberia has some very large rivers. You see, also, that three of these empty into

the Arctic Ocean. As the mouths and lower courses of these rivers are blocked by ice for several months each year, their commercial value is not great. This is especially true of the Lena. The Amur, however, is an important line of transportation.



FIG. 93. A Yokout woman from the cold tundra region of Siberia

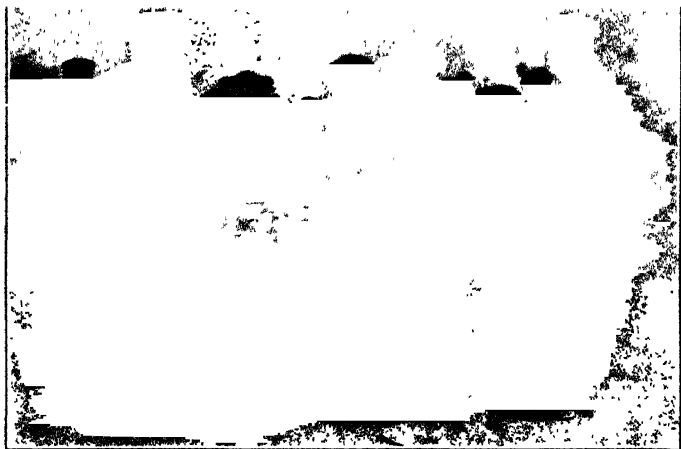
Let us get aboard a train at Vladivostok. This word

means "Mistress of the East." The city was established in 1861 on a fine harbor that is open most of the year. During the most severe winter weather, iron-clad steamboats known as *ice breakers* force their way through the ice and thus enable vessels carrying freight

## SIBERIA

and passengers to get in and out. The population of Vladivostok is now about 75,000. It has modern business blocks, and is lighted by electricity.

The cars in which we ride are of the compartment type. We shall probably see some people from our own country, for many Americans travel over the Si-



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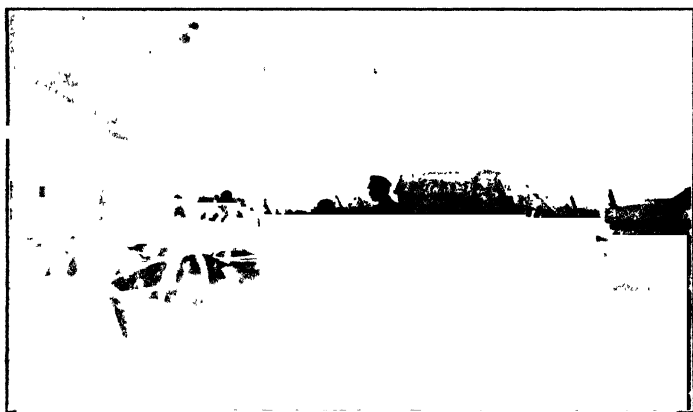
FIG. 94. Siberians

berian Railroad every year. As this is a new country there are no very large cities on the line. In some cases the cities are several miles from the railroad, for it was built in a rather straight line in order to lessen the distance as much as possible.

Irkutsk, a city of about 50,000 people, is near the south end of Lake Baikal, on the Angara River, which

flows from the lake. This lake is of interest to us because it is believed to be the deepest lake in the world. In its deepest part it would take a line nearly one mile long to reach from the surface of the lake to the bottom.

Farther west is a region where much dairying is carried on. The people of London receive some of their butter



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FIG. 95. A Siberian wagon

and eggs from the country around Tomsk. Considerable of the trade in Siberia is carried on by means of fairs. To these fairs the people bring whatever they have to sell or exchange.

Some distance east of the Ural Mountains the railroad crosses the boundary between Siberia and European Russia. The Ural Mountains are low and rounded,

and therefore it was not difficult to construct the railroad across them. The farmers cut grass almost to the tops of the mountains. •

About twelve days after leaving Vladivostok, our train reaches St. Petersburg, the capital of the Russian Empire. This is the center from which the Russians in distant Siberia are governed. This city was founded by Peter the Great in 1703, and nine years later he made it the capital of the empire. Since that time the boundaries of Russia have been extended in practically all directions, but chiefly eastward, and, as you now know, the Land of the C'zars stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

St. Petersburg, although built upon marshy ground, is an important and a beautiful city. It has many magnificent buildings, one of which is St. Isaac's Church. The columns of this building are of lapis lazuli, a blue stone obtained near Lake Baikal.

Edna Dean Proctor says of the Russian capital:—

"See! From the Finland marshes there  
'Tis proud St. Isaac's rears in air,  
Pillar on pillar, that shining dome!  
And, just beyond its glorious swell,  
'Tis the slender spire of the Citadel .  
Where great Czar Peter slumbers well  
All by the Neva's flood and foam, —  
That lifts its cross till the golden bars  
Gleam and burn with the midnight stars!"



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